

.....Following is a narrative written by Jim Hinkley and his wife Pat, based on extensive research they did over many years tracking the history of our family. Jim is (was...I haven't been in contact with him in some years) my second cousin, the grandson of my father's older sister Ernestine. I left the narrative exactly as I received it from them.....

Ecker

The immigrant ancestor of the Ecker family was Christopher Ecker, the fourth great grandfather of Ernestine Ecker. Unfortunately, we do not know very much about him except that he was born in Germany about 1720 and probably came to America as a young man. The Germans who came during the 1740 period mostly belonged to one of two different groups. Some of them were called "plain people" and were Mennonites or Anabaptists of one sort or another. The other group were "church people" which meant that they were members of either the German Reformed Church or the Lutheran Church. Apparently Christopher Ecker was a Mennonite since he ended up in a Mennonite community in Coventry Township, Chester County in eastern Pennsylvania. Some time after arriving there, he was married to Elizabeth Stager, the daughter of a prominent Mennonite who was one of the first settlers of the township. Christopher and Elizabeth had two children, both born in Coventry Township. Christopher died in 1748 at the very young age of only twenty-eight. We do not know the cause of this premature death but one might suppose that it was some kind of accident. However, we discovered that he left a will, and it does not seem very likely that a twenty-eight year old who was killed in an accident would have a will. Apparently he had some condition where the outcome was obvious but he still had time to make his wishes known. The will was dated 14 Feb 1748 and it was proved on 26 Feb 1748 so his death occurred between these two dates. The will mentions his wife, Elizabeth and two minor sons, Jacob and John. Christopher was buried in the East Coventry Mennonite Cemetery. All of the stones in this Cemetery were read and recorded in about 1960. Christopher Ecker's stone was identified at that time. A librarian from the Mennonite Historical Society wrote to us in 1999 saying that he had found Christopher's stone from the 1960 map showing the number and row for it. Pat and I found the Cemetery in the summer of 2001 and from the same map selected a stone which we think might be the right one. However, this stone is completely unreadable at this time as well as all of the other stones in the row, so we can not be absolutely certain that we have the right one.

Elizabeth Stager was the daughter of Jacob Stager. She was born on 1 Jan 1722. This date was determined from information on her gravestone. We do not know for sure, but she was probably born in Germany and came to America with her father as a young girl. She was only twenty-six years old with two children under the age of four when her husband, Christopher Ecker, died. Elizabeth was married for the second time in 1754 to Henry Benner. Henry was born in Germany in 1723 and came to Pennsylvania on 17 Oct 1749. He settled in Coventry Township and there he met the widow, Elizabeth Stager Ecker. Henry was not a Mennonite so it was somewhat surprising to the community that he and Elizabeth were married. They had four children. Elizabeth died on 6 Mar 1777 at the age of fifty-five. In spite of the fact that she had lived for twenty-three years with her second husband, she was buried in the East Coventry Mennonite Cemetery beside her first husband, Christopher Ecker. The data taken from her gravestone came from the 1960 reading and could not be read at the present time.

Ernestine Ecker's third great grandfather was John Ecker, the second son of Christopher

and Elizabeth. John was born on 2 Jun 1747. He was only eight months old when his father died. He was about seven when his mother remarried. We have found a fairly complete genealogical history of the Henry Benner family including his will. I find it rather interesting that there is no mention anywhere of two stepsons, Jacob and John Ecker. Since their mother did not remarry until over six years after her first husband died, I wonder, if perhaps, she found other guardians for her young children among the relatives or neighbors. In any case, the first record of John Ecker finds him living in central Maryland about one hundred miles west of his birthplace and the home of Henry Benner. John Ecker was married on 8 Sep 1769 to Elizabeth Engle. They had nine children. We were fortunate to find a copy of a Bible record made by a grandson of John and Elizabeth who lived from 1816 to 1848. This gives the birth dates of three generations of the family including the names and birth dates of the nine children of John and Elizabeth. These children were all born in Frederick County, Maryland. John was apparently quite prosperous and acquired considerable property. Elizabeth died on 8 Sep 1811 at the age of fifty-eight. She was buried at the Methodist Burying Ground at Unionville, MD. There is no indication that any member of our Ecker family was ever a practicing Mennonite after the immigrant, Christopher. In later life, John sold most of his land to three of his sons. Two other sons did not receive any of his land indicating that they had chosen some other vocation and were not interested in farming. John died on 13 Oct 1821 at the age of seventy-four. He was buried at the Methodist Burying Ground at Unionville, MD beside his wife. During the summer of 2001, we found this Cemetery. It is very well kept and lies along side of the Methodist Church that celebrated its 200th anniversary that year. We found the graves for John and Elizabeth and they can still be read. Several other family members are also buried there. In addition, John's older brother, Jacob Ecker, his wife and several family members are buried in this Cemetery. John Ecker's will was written on 26 Aug 1819 and was proved on 5 Nov 1821. Apparently only four sons survived him as well as the children of two daughters. The will specified that the entire estate be divided into six equal shares and be distributed to the survivors. There were descendants of John and Elizabeth Ecker still living in Frederick County, MD as recently as 1950 and perhaps there are some there today.

When we first learned about John Ecker, we did not know the surname of his wife, Elizabeth. We have recently corresponded with another Ecker descendant who told us that her name was Engle and that she was the daughter of Casper and Elizabeth Engle. From her gravestone we know that she was born in 1753. We searched the Frederick County, MD records and found that, indeed, there were Engles living there in the 1700's but we could find no record of a Casper Engle. So at this point, we are not certain that this information is correct.

Ernestine Ecker's second great grandfather was Abraham Ecker, the seventh child of John and Elizabeth. Abraham was born at New Windsor, MD on 1 Jun 1785. He grew up on his father's farm but was one of the two sons who did not purchase any land from their father. We know that the reason for this is that he was apprenticed to someone to learn about medicine and that he spent his adult life as a practicing physician. We have not been able to find any record of Abraham's training but we do know that he had quite a successful medical practice. He was married on 11 Feb 1806 to Elizabeth Barnhart. Abraham and Elizabeth had twelve children. The first two were born in Maryland. In September 1810 they moved to Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania near Pittsburg and five more children were born there. Abraham did not leave many "footprints" in Pennsylvania except for the purchase and sale of several pieces of property in Mt. Pleasant Township, Westmoreland County. We can find no reference to him being a Doctor there. Perhaps he was still an apprentice to some other physician at the time.

In May 1818, Abraham, Elizabeth and their family moved to Wayne County, Ohio near Ashland. Their remaining five children were born there. It is very apparent from the record that Dr. Abraham was a practicing physician in the Ashland area for the rest of his life. The Eckers were among the earliest settlers in this part of Ohio. Abraham initially bought an 160 acre farm in Perry township. He is listed as a resident on the tax lists for the Township beginning in 1821 through 1825. From 1826 to 1836 he continued to be a resident owner of this property which was valued at \$392.00 until 1836 when the value was increased to \$546.00. The county tax records also include chattel lists for the years 1826 through 1834. During this period, Dr. Abraham owned anywhere from two to five horses and four to eight cattle. In 1833 he had \$100.00 loaned out at interest and in 1834 he had \$150.00 at interest. In the early years in Ohio, Dr. Abraham was also involved in other community activities. He was elected as a county commissioner in the years 1826 through 1829. On Friday 27 Mar 1829, a special session of the commissioners, including Dr. Abraham, was held for the purpose of making arrangements for the erection of public buildings. It was resolved by the board "to erect on the northwest corner of the public square, in the town of Wooster, four substantial fireproof offices of such dimensions as may hereafter be adapted and agreed upon". The buildings were made of brick and stone and were completed by 1 Dec 1829 at a cost of \$989.99.

The tax records mentioned above indicate that Dr. Abraham no longer owned the 160 acre farm after 1836. Perhaps he sold it to his oldest son or to one of his sons-in law. In 1838 he owned another piece of property totaling ninety-seven acres in a different section of the township. We were told by the local historians that he built a house in the town of Rowsburg in the year 1837 and that the house was still standing today. It was pointed out to us and we have pictures of it. We assume that he practiced medicine most of the rest of his life from this house in Rowsburg. There is some indication that he may have retired in about 1856 when he was past seventy and moved back to the ninety-seven acre farm that he purchased in 1838. Dr. Abraham died on 11 Nov 1859. The following obituary appeared in the Ashland Times newspaper on 24 Nov 1859:

"After an illness of twenty days, died at his residence, near Rowsburg, November eleventh, Dr. Abraham Ecker in the seventy-fifth year of his age. He was a faithful brother in the church for more than forty years, and died in full hope of a blessed immortality. He emigrated from Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, in May, 1818, and was known as a physician upwards of thirty years. He leaves a kind and loving companion, ten children, seventy-five grandchildren, and twenty great-grandchildren, to mourn his loss. But they need not sorrow as those who have no hope:--

'Friend after friend departs:
Who has not lost a friend?
There is no union here of hearts,
That find not here an end.'

"His family have lost an affectionate husband, a kind and indulgent father. He has been called away by the "grim bailiff of the grave", but his precepts linger still. He has been called to lie down in the narrow tomb, but the memory of one so dear cannot perish. The example he has given cannot pass unnoticed; the pattern he laid down cannot be forgotten; and we would not be human would we remain unmoved and not startle at the announcement. We would not be human could we restrain our grief---restrain our tears. Oh, no! but we sorrow not as those without hope. We believe he died in the Lord, and now sweetly sleeps in Jesus, and, in the morning of the

resurrection, will arise to immortality and eternal life. His seat is now vacant, his gentle footsteps are no longer heard, his faltering voice no longer greets our ears, his aching eyes are forever closed to terrestrial objects, his throbbing heart has ceased to beat, his weary head is now at rest, his suffering and attenuated form is now part and parcel of the cold, damp earth, and reposes by the side of those who preceded him to the 'silent city of the dead'. May the Lord whom he served be our comfort and support. May he sanctify this solemn and trying bereavement to our present and eternal good. We hope to meet again, 'when the day of life is fled', where sorrows and separations will be forever unknown. Oh! I would not live always."

'A few short years-and then,
Impatient of its bliss,
The weary soul shall seek on high
A better home than this.'

The cause of death was listed as "gravel" that was a medical term at that time for kidney stones.

Dr. Abraham left a will dated 5 Apr 1859 that was probated on 19 Nov 1859. It is a very interesting document and appears to be in Abraham's handwriting. Except for a few words that I cannot read, it is copied here as follows:

"Ashland County and State of Ohio April 5th 1859 I Abraham Ecker do make and publish this my last will and testament in manner following, first it is my will that my funeral expenses and all my just debts be fully paid. Second I give devise and bequeath to my beloved wife Elizabeth in lieu of her dower the farm on which we now live situated in the County of Ashland and State aforesaid containing about ninety-five acres during her natural life, together with all of the household furniture. But all my other property both real and personal shall be sold after my death and all outstanding accounts notes and debts shall be collected and divided amongst my heirs. They shall all have equal shares after deducting out of their shares that which any of them have already got. I shall file my accounts with this will and none of my heirs shall trump up any account against my estate as I do not owe any of them one cent and if any of them have got over their equal share, it is my will that they shall pay it back to my estate. "

"I will to my daughter Liddy Camble (Lydia Cambell) a full share of my estate"

"I will to my son Levi a full share of my estate after deducting his accounts and debts out of his share"

"I will to the heirs of my daughter Sarah. I will to each of them one hundred dollars except Catherine Elliot. I will to her twenty-some (?) dollars not that I disrespect her but because her husband owed me"

"To my daughter Susan Tolbert I will a full share of my estate"

"To my daughter Elizabeth Signs I will a full share after deducting five hundred dollars out of her share for land and other things she got"

"To my daughter Catherine Winrote I will to her and to her heirs the sum of five hundred dollars"

"To my daughter Barbary Bringolf I will a full share of my estate"

"To my son Jacob I will a full share of my estate but he has got I suppose more than double that amount of his share, it is my will that he pay back to my estate according --?-and sale of land which he paid nothing"

"To my son Abraham I will a full share after deducting my claims against him"

"To my son David I will a full share of my estate"

“And to my son John I will to him one hundred dollars, I think he has his full share out for pitty sake”

“Not knowing the day nor the hour of my departure out of this world into another, I thought it best to make the within and last will which I made according to the best of judgement in justice to all of my heirs, and wish it to be strictly executed for this purpose. I have appointed my two sons namely my son Abraham and my son David Executors of the within will justly and lawfully. I have hereunto set my hand and seal. Amen. Abraham Ecker”

Witnesses present
John Van Nest
Jacob Gardner Jr.

It doesn't appear that the family got away with very much with this old man. His account books listed 110 people in the community who had accounts with him on which only part had been paid in some cases and none in others. These original accounts totaled \$4,427.45 of which only \$1,353.89 had been paid so the balance due was \$3,073.56. The records do not show how much of this was ever collected. True to his word, Dr. Abraham also sealed up with his will, a little black book titled “The Family Record” showing the money that he had advanced to family members. The lists contained the names of four of his sons and two sons-in-law. The amount of money involved was in excess of \$10,000.00. We were unable to find the total value of his estate but it was fairly large for that time. Dr. Abraham was buried in the Fairhaven Cemetery in Chester Township, Wayne County, OH. The Cemetery was called Mohican at that time. He has a very interesting gravestone that we have seen and photographed. It is about four feet tall and has a mortar and pestle on the top.

In spite of a great deal of effort, we have been unable to find very much about the family of Elizabeth Barnhart. She was born on 28 Nov 1785, probably in Maryland. We have calculated this date from the age given in her obituary. The same Ecker descendant who I mentioned in connection with Elizabeth Engle, told us that Elizabeth Barnhart's parents were Jacob and Sarah Barnhart. In the Frederick County, MD records we did find a Jacob Barnhart as the head of a household in the 1800 census. There were three females between the ages of ten and sixteen in the family. Our Elizabeth Barnhart would have been fifteen in November that year. We also found the will of an Anthony Barnhart written on 9 Mar 1800 and probated on 9 Aug 1808 who says that he owned 117 acres of land in partnership with his son, Jacob Barnhart, and that the son was to pay his brothers and sisters their share after his death. The census record noted above also showed that there was a male over the age of forty-five in the household. So we think that this Anthony Barnhart was probably Elizabeth's grandfather and that he not only owned the land together with his son but he also lived with him. Elizabeth lived for about twelve years after Dr. Abraham died and we assume that she stayed on the farm that he gave to her. She died on 4 Feb 1872. The Ashland Times carried the following notice on 15 Feb 1872:

“Died at her residence in Ashland County on the morning of Feb 4th, 1872, Elizabeth, wife of Dr. Abraham Ecker, dec'd, aged eighty-six years two months and six days. She was the mother of twelve children, eighty-three grandchildren and fifty-seven great grandchildren. She was a member of the German Baptist Church.”

Elizabeth was buried along side of Abraham in the Mohican Cemetery.

Ernestine Ecker's great grandfather was John Ecker, the sixth child of Dr. Abraham and Elizabeth Barnhart. He was born in Mt. Pleasant Township, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania on 3 Apr 1816. He was only two when his family moved to Wayne County, OH. It was here that he grew up. He was apprenticed to his father as a young man to study the field of medicine. He is listed in the "History of Ashland County, Ohio" along with his father as an early physician in the town of Rowsburgh. John was married on 1 Jan 1837 to Catherine Ihrig. They had thirteen children. The first eleven were born in Ashland County, OH and two of them died there. I am not sure how successful his medical practice was because he was commissioned as a Justice of the Peace for Perry Township, Wayne County in 1845 and again in 1848. Also he is listed as a farmer in the 1850 census. In 1856, John and Catherine moved with their entire family to Fayette County Iowa. It would appear by this time that John had worked his father for about all he could get because the reader will recall that Dr. Abraham's will gave him only "\$100.00-I think he has his full share out for pitty sake". Perhaps they were not getting along too well that accounts for John's move to Iowa. One of John's married sisters also went to West Union, Iowa in 1856. There was a special township census taken in Fayette County for the year 1856. John and Catherine and their nine living children are listed. John is called a physician on this census. He is also listed as a physician in the 1860 census. The "History of Clayton County, Iowa" contains a biographical sketch for John Ecker Jr., a son of John and Catherine. This states that his father engaged in the practice of his profession at West Union until his death. In spite of this, Dr. John was elected as a Fayette County Judge for the years 1866-7 and we have seen in the County records that he performed a considerable number of wedding ceremonies during that period. John and Catherine had four sons who served with the Union forces during the Civil War. Dr. John died at West Union at the relatively young age of fifty-seven on 26 May 1873. He was buried in the West Union Cemetery.

Catherine Ihrig's family is another one for which we can find no information. The Histories of Ashland County, OH make mention of a Jacob Ihrig and a John Ihrig who were contemporaries of Dr. Abraham and we know that, at least, John Ihrig was acquainted with the Eckers since his name appears in Dr. Abraham's account book. We have found the names of two of Jacob's children but neither of these was Catherine. Of course, he may have had other children that we did not find. We have been unable to find the names of any of John's children. We did discover that in the 1830 census for Ashland County, OH the name of John Ihrig is separated from that of Dr. Abraham Ecker by only one person indicating that they were practically next door neighbors. This census shows that John Ihrig had a number of children including one daughter between the ages of ten and fifteen. In 1830 our Catherine was twelve years old. Based on this circumstantial evidence we believe that John Ihrig was the father of Catherine but we have no documented proof of this. Catherine Ihrig was born in Ashland County, OH on 29 Sep 1818. She lived for about twenty-four years after Dr. John died. According to the census records, she was still living in her home at West Union in 1895. Some time after this she must have gone to live with her son, John Jr., in the nearby town of McGregor, IA. She died there on 1 Sep 1897 at the age of seventy-eight. She was buried in the West Union Cemetery along side of Dr. John. These graves are in Lot 11, Block 3 of the original cemetery. Also in this lot are four of the children of John and Catherine who died in childhood. None of these six graves has a marker.

Ernestine Ecker's grandfather was Abraham B. Ecker, the first child of John and Catherine. He was born at Rowsburg, OH on 10 Dec 1837. He was known as Abe or A. B. all of his life. He grew up in Rowsburg and received his education there. A. B. was eighteen years old when the family moved to Iowa in 1856. The special census made that year in Iowa showed him

to be employed outside of the home as a clerk. It is not known whether this was in a private business or a branch of the local government. A. B. was married on 7 Oct 1858 to Millicent Harriet Conkey at West Union. They had two sons, Ernest and Will, both born at West Union.

Confederate troops fired on Fort Sumter on 12 Apr 1861 to mark the beginning of the Civil War. A few days later, President Lincoln made a call for seventy- five thousand volunteers for three months service. It took a few more days for this news to reach West Union since they did not have the telegraph yet. When the news came, Fayette County went into immediate action. The first meeting for the enlistment of volunteers was held at Upper Iowa University at Fayette on 24 Apr 1861. Eighteen men signed up at this meeting. On Apr 26th another meeting was held in West Union with representatives from every town in the County. Meeting followed meeting in rapid succession so that within a month the County had organized a Company that was received into the State service on 20 May 1861. On that very day, A. B. Ecker and two of his brothers, John Jr. and George, volunteered. Company F as it was called now numbered ninety-four men and left West Union on 29 May 1861. There was a ceremony on the public square at West Union during which the Company was presented with a beautiful flag that had been made by the patriotic ladies of the County. There was also a religious service. The men were then loaded onto farm wagons and taken to McGregor, IA that is on the Mississippi River. From there they went by boat to Keokuk, IA in the southeast corner of the State. They arrived at Keokuk on June 6th and on that date were officially sworn into the United States Army. Company F was assigned to the Third Infantry Regiment of Iowa. They drilled at Camp Kirkwood at Keokuk for about three weeks. It is interesting that all three Ecker brothers went into the Army as musicians. A. B. was a fifer.

On 29 Jun 1861, the Regiment moved to Hannibal, MO and continued their training for another month. On about 1 Aug 1861, the Third Regiment was ordered to the front. Their first engagement was at Blue Mills, MO on 18 Sep 1861. At this battle, Company F had one killed and seventeen wounded. Except for two or three small skirmishes in Missouri, the Third Regiment was not engaged again until the Battle of Shiloh on 6 and 7 Apr 1862. Company F had four killed, ten wounded and one taken prisoner during this Battle. They were next involved in the siege of Corinth, Mississippi during the month of May, 1862. On 5 Oct 1862, the Third Regiment was at the Battle of Metamora, Tennessee where Company F had one killed and six wounded. About this time, A. B. Ecker began to suffer from some illness that made it difficult for him to perform his duties at the front. On about 29 Oct 1862, he was transferred back to Memphis, Tennessee to serve as a clerk in a Quartermaster Depot. During the winter his health continued to deteriorate. He was even furloughed and sent back north for a few weeks but his health still did not improve. Finally, on 10 May 1863, the Army Doctor who had been seeing A. B. sent the following report to the Commander of the Third Iowa Infantry Regiment:

“I certify that I have carefully examined the said Abraham B. Ecker of Captain Jacob Swank’s Company and find him incapable of performing the duties of a soldier because of structural disease of the liver producing the usual results. Remaining in this climate endangers his life. The disease existed previous to enlistment but has for the last nine months rapidly advanced. Immediate change of climate may prolong his life.”

(Signed) B. F. Keables, Surgeon

On the same date, A. B.’s Commander at Memphis also submitted a report as follows:

“I certify that musician, Abraham B. Ecker, of Company F, Third Iowa Infantry has been detailed as clerk in my office for the last six months. His health has been gradually failing for the past three months supposed to be caused by disease of the liver. He has been unfit to perform the duties of a soldier for sixty (60) days during the last two months and I think it just to him and advantageous to the government that he be discharged.”

(Signed) A. G. Burr, Captain

On 17 May 1863, discharge papers for A. B. Ecker were signed by Col. Aaron Brown, Commander of the Third Iowa Regiment and he went back home to West Union to his wife and three year old son. Although we do not know any details of his recovery from this illness, based on the prognosis given, it is quite surprising that A. B. led a very active life for fifty-three years after his discharge from the Army.

I will briefly conclude the story of the Civil War as it pertains to the Eckers. A. B.'s brothers, John Jr. and George, continued with the Third Iowa until the end of the War. They were also joined by a younger brother, Erastus Ecker, who enlisted as a drummer making all four brothers musicians. In a letter to the Military Pension Dept. written by A. B. many years later, he said that his brother, Erastus, enlisted in 1862. However, he was only fourteen years old at the time. The Fayette County History says that he enlisted on 29 Feb 1864. I believe that this makes more sense since this was two weeks after his sixteenth birthday. After A. B. left the Third Regiment, they accompanied General Grant on his march through central Mississippi and took part in the siege of Vicksburg in the summer of 1863. The following summer the Regiment was on the way to Atlanta where they were engaged in battle on 22 Jul 1864. On this date it was said that “the Third Iowa Regiment literally fought itself out of existence”. The few remaining members were consolidated with the Second Iowa Infantry. John Ecker Jr. was promoted to Second Lieutenant at this time. The consolidated Regiment continued until the end of the War and marched with Sherman “to the sea”. Altogether, the Regiment marched 5,300 miles. The three Ecker brothers survived the entire War, although John Jr. was wounded at Shiloh and twice at Atlanta. All three were discharged on 12 Jul 1865 and returned to their home in West Union.

After his recovery, A. B. Ecker returned to his regular activities. For fifteen years or more he served as a clerk or deputy in one or another of the County Offices. He was considered at that time to be the best penman in the County. In 1869 he was a member of a committee formed to devise a plan for the erection of a monument to honor the Civil War soldiers from the County. In 1870 he was elected Recorder for the City of West Union. In 1871 he was re-elected to that position. It is interesting that my great grandfather, James B. Hinkley had a brother, Porter L. Hinkley who came to West Union from Ohio in 1853, just a few years before the Eckers arrived. Porter was a successful businessman at West Union and became quite prominent. During the period of time when A. B. Ecker was active in town affairs, Porter L. Hinkley was serving as Mayor of the city and later, also, as Recorder. It is obvious that the two men knew each other and perhaps were even friends. I am sure that neither of them ever dreamed that three generations later the two families would be united by marriage.

Sometime around 1880, A. B. took a job as a traveling salesman for Acres, Blackmar & Co. of Burlington, IA. This Company was manufacturing stationers who printed and made blank books for business use such as receipt books and ledgers. In 1882 he moved to Des Moines, IA with this job. In 1886 he moved again to Burlington, IA where the Company headquarters was

located. On 24 Sep 1886, A. B. Ecker was divorced from Harriet Conkey after thirty years of marriage. On 15 Feb 1887 he was married for the second time to Ida Blanche Graham Huxley, who had been divorced from Charles E. Huxley on 14 Dec 1886. For some reason they were married in Kenosha, WI, but they made their home at Burlington, IA. For the next several years, at least until the turn of the century, A. B.'s territory included West Union because he visited there about four times a year. Each visit was noted in the local newspaper and it is obvious that he had a lot of friends in town. Of course, his two sons and some brothers and sisters also lived in the area. It is not known how he was received by the family members after his divorce but there are some indications that the reception was rather "cool". A. B. and his new wife, Blanche, continued to live at Burlington until 1912 when they moved to Chicago, IL. Apparently A. B. continued to work until his death since he is listed as an employee of Acres, Blackmar & Co. on his death certificate.

Abraham B. Ecker received a veterans pension from his Civil War service. We have received a copy of his pension file from the National Archives. Unfortunately, this file is not complete and does not contain his original application. Therefore, we do not know when he first received the pension. From some other things in the file, I believe that he probably filed in January, 1903 just after his 65th birthday. On 11 May 1912, the Congress made some changes to the Civil War pension law that apparently permitted an increase in the pension under certain conditions. Because of this another application was made by A. B. on 3 Jan 1913 just after his 75th birthday. The record does not show whether he received this increase. He died at Chicago on 28 Feb 1916 at the age of seventy-eight. It is interesting that the attending physician listed the primary cause of death as inflammation of the heart muscle that had existed for about two months and secondary causes of hardening of the arteries that he had for about ten years and a chronic kidney inflammation similar to Bright's disease, a condition that the Doctor felt had existed for about two years. To our great surprise, there was no mention of any liver condition.

We did not know A. B.'s burial place until we obtained a copy of his death certificate from the City of Chicago. This showed that he was buried in the Elmwood Cemetery in Chicago. We later visited the Cemetery and found the gravesite. It was unmarked. We did not feel that a great grandfather who was a veteran of the Civil War should be in an unmarked grave. So we had a marker installed at the site. The pension record shows that A. B.'s pension of \$27.00 a month was discontinued after his death in Feb 1916. His widow, Ida B. Ecker, applied for a pension on 14 Sep 1917 that she received. This pension of \$30.00 a month was discontinued in May of 1928 because Ida was remarried. We do not know her death date and she is not buried with A. B.

There were two notices printed in Fayette County newspapers after the death of A. B. Ecker. They are almost identical so I will copy only one of them here as follows:

"A. B. Ecker, for many years a resident of West Union, died yesterday at his home in Chicago according to word received by his brother-in-law, W. N. Pierce of West Union. Mr. Ecker was a pioneer of Fayette County and enlisted in Company F, Third Iowa Infantry, on the first call for troops in the Civil War. He was for years a deputy in various County Offices, being considered at that time the best penman in this County. About twenty-five years ago he went on the road as a salesman for Acres, Blackmar & Co., blank book makers of Burlington, IA, and lived in that City until a few years ago when he moved to Chicago. He made four trips a year to West Union and his coming was always pleasant to old friends. He is survived by two sons, Will Ecker of West Union and E. C. Ecker of Fayette."

The Conkey name is Scotch. It was originally McConkey but when they came to New England they dropped the Mc. Actually, they belonged to a small group of immigrants referred to as Scotch-Irish by the settlers already living in New England when they arrived. The name "Scotch-Irish" was purely an American invention and came about as follows: After the death of Queen Elizabeth I of England in 1603, James VI, the Stuart King of Scotland became James I, King of England and Ireland. During this process, James I inherited and confiscated large portions of several Counties in Northern Ireland. He did not trust local Irish to administer these huge estates so he subdivided them into 2,000 acre parcels. Each of these were given to a member of Scotch nobility to administer. They were required to build a castle and a fortress, to occupy their land and bring a minimum of forty-eight able-bodied men of Scottish or English descent to settle on the estate and lease small plots. Each of these settlers was furnished with arms, mustered periodically for review and they were required to bear these arms for the King when called upon. In addition, each settler was required to build a house and to plant his land. After the first ten years of this program, there were over 40,000 settlers of Scotch ancestry in Ireland.

These Scots kept their racial strain pure. They neither fraternized nor intermarried with the local Irish. They sent their sons back to Scotland to be educated for the ministry and other occupations. Many of these sons were married in Scotland before returning to Ireland. Thus they continued under the influence of their Scottish religion, philosophy and family ties for several generations. Things were not always easy for these Scotch in Ireland. The Irish Roman Catholics hated them because most of the confiscated land had been stolen from the Church. The English also disliked the Scotch because they insisted on following their own Presbyterian religion that did not conform to the established Church of England. In spite of these problems, the Scotch population continued to increase in Ireland. By 1671, there were 100,000 Scots living there.

The persecution of the Presbyterians by the English Church continued during the reigns of Charles II and James II. In the war between James II and William of Orange that took place in Ireland between 1689 and 1691, The Scot Presbyterians strongly supported William of Orange who became William III, King of England. The Presbyterians expected some relief from the persecution with the new King but he was unable to deliver and their cause was defeated by the Parliament and the Bishops of the English Church. Queen Anne, daughter of James II, succeeded William III to the Throne in 1702. She proved to be even more intolerant of the Scot Presbyterians than her predecessors. At this time, all non-conformist Presbyterians were required to resign their positions as magistrates, burgesses, customs officials, postmasters, Officers in the Army or Navy and local judges. Hereafter, they had no representation and were ruled and punished by an alien minority. They were even refused burial for their dead except when the established Church of England officiated. Ministers were fined for performing marriages and both ministers and schoolmasters were forbidden to teach. In addition, the Presbyterians were required to pay tithes for the support of the Established Church, none of which went to their own churches that they secretly supported as well.

All of these religious problems along with new high rents imposed by the landlords and other economic instability caused the Scots to begin serious emigration from Ireland commencing in 1718. With this brief history of the Scotch in Ireland, I have tried to show that the name "Scotch-Irish" given to them by the earlier settlers in New England, apparently to distinguish them from other Scotch who came directly from Scotland, is very definitely a misnomer since there is absolutely nothing Irish about them what so ever.

The immigrant ancestor of the Conkey family was Alexander Conkey, Harriet Conkey's second great grandfather. He was one of about one hundred Scotch heads of households who came to New England in the summer of 1718 with all of their families loaded onto five ships. This party was headed by their minister, Rev. Edward Fitzgerald. It is not known when the McConkeys first came from Scotland to Ireland, but Alexander was born in about 1678, probably in Londonderry County, Northern Ireland. The Mc Conkey family must have arrived some time before that. Alexander was married in Northern Ireland to Margaret (surname unknown) and they had two sons born there. Two more sons were born in Massachusetts after their arrival in the New World. Alexander Conkey and his family came to Boston Harbor around the last week of July or the first week of August of 1718. They went immediately with a number of other families to Worcester, Massachusetts. It is interesting that Worcester was still considered to be on the frontier at this time, one hundred years after the Pilgrims first settled the Plymouth Colony, even though it is only forty miles west of Boston. There were only a handful of settlers there when the Conkeys and other Scotch families arrived. The small company of Scotch-Irish settlers had only blankets, tools and flax spinning wheels with them. This was the first colony in New England to cultivate flax and with their foot spinning wheels to manufacture linen. Log cabins were built rapidly for the new arrivals and soon the little settlement had fifty-eight dwellings and a population of some 200. Religious services were conducted by the Rev. Fitzgerald in a garrison house. In the summer of 1719, the Presbyterians began to erect a church of their own. Once again this effort was thwarted by earlier settlers who thought that there should be only one church (Congregational) in town and so they destroyed the frame before much progress had been made. This destruction proved to be a crushing blow to many of the Presbyterians. Some of them went north a few miles where, in 1722, a group of forty or fifty families had gathered and the territory was incorporated as the town of Rutland. Other Scotch settlers moved to Sutton where there was a Presbyterian Church and some even went to Londonderry, New Hampshire.

The Scotch-Irish did not entirely desert Worcester during these sad times. Those remaining included our Alexander Conkey and his family but they were so few in number that they could not bear the burden of a minister of their own faith. The Rev Fitzgerald left them but returned occasionally to preach. The record mentions him as late as 1729. After the departure of Rev Fitzgerald, it appears that most of the Presbyterians attended the Congregational church. Probably they were surprised to discover that the New England Puritans had created a church not too unlike their own in Scotland. In 1724, Alexander Conkey was assigned to the fifth row of seats in the Congregational Church. By 1733 he had moved up to the third row. In 1731, Alexander Conkey bought a substantial stone house with a barn and other out buildings on Grove Street in Worcester. A drawing of this house has been preserved and appears in a History of Scotch-Irish Pioneers published in 1910. This says something about his success after only a few years in the New World. In spite of being a minority, it does appear that he also was elected as a selectman for the town of Worcester on at least one occasion. In the 1730's, the Presbyterians again attempted to form a church and they called the Rev. William Johnston from County Tyrone in Northern Ireland. In 1737, a group of ten Presbyterians, finding it burdensome to support Mr. Johnston and at the same time aid the town's minister, asked the town to free them from taxation for the support of religion: but "ye Irish petition" was voted down by "a grate majority". As can be seen from these records, the designation "Irish" was still being applied to these Scotch settlers from Northern Ireland. Because of the adversity and isolation suffered for many years, the Scots had grown clannish and they did not assimilate well with the older New England blood.

In 1739, the lands now included in the town of Pelham were being opened for settlement. On 21 Jan 1739, arrangements were made for a group of thirty-three Scotch-Irish families to settle in this territory. Included in this group were Alexander Conkey and his oldest son, John Conkey. Finally these Presbyterian Scots had their own town and church.

Alexander's wife, Margaret, died at Pelham on 13 Nov 1750 at the age of seventy-five and is buried in the Pelham Hill Cemetery. Alexander also died there on 3 Dec 1759 at the age of eighty-one. He is buried beside Margaret in the Pelham Hill Cemetery. His stone is still readable.

Harriet Conkey's great grandfather was James Conkey, the fourth son of Alexander and Margaret. James was born at Worcester, MA in 1723. He was sixteen years old when his family moved to Pelham and he lived there most of his life. He was married at Pelham on 16 Apr 1747 to Isabel Maklem. The Pelham vital records show the births of four sons and one daughter between 1748 and 1760 for James and Isabel. This information was entered all at one time and appears on the same page. Unfortunately, the page is torn so that all of the given names are lost. Another source says that James and Isabel had four sons and three daughters. From various other references, we have identified at least three sons and one daughter for the family.

James Conkey's name appears in the Pelham town records a number of times during his life. He was listed as town treasurer in 1747. In 1748 his name appeared on a list of inhabitants who were taxed to pay the annual salary of their minister. In 1761 he was on another list of taxpayers in the town. He was listed in 1767 as one of fourteen property owners out of a total of sixty-eight inhabitants to own four or more pigs. Later that year, a complete inventory of his possessions was made. He had one horse, two oxen, two cows, no sheep and four pigs. His personal estate at that time was valued at thirty Pounds and twelve Shillings which ranked him thirty-fifth out of the sixty-eight inhabitants.

James Conkey's name also appears on the Massachusetts tax valuation list in 1771 for the town of Pelham. This list shows that he owned one house, two horses, two oxen, eight goats and sheep, two pigs, three cows, four acres of tillable land on which he produced forty bushels of grain per year, six acres of upland mowing land which produced three tons of upland hay per year and one and a half acres of fresh meadow that produced one and a half tons of meadow hay per year.

On 27 Jul 1780, James Conkey, at the age of fifty-seven, enlisted in a local militia company that was being raised to reinforce the Continental Army for three months. He served two months and twenty-two days including travel time and was discharged on 10 Oct 1780. In 1784, his net worth was ranked number fifty-seven out of 151 property owners in Pelham. Finally, his name appears on the first United States Census taken in 1790.

It should be noted that James Conkey's brother, William, was the owner of Conkey's Tavern in Pelham that became notorious for its part in Shay's Rebellion. Following the Revolutionary War, economic conditions in the former Colonies were very tough. Money became scarce and the price farmers received for produce decreased so much that many of them could not pay their debts. Some of the States attempted to relieve the situation, but Massachusetts did nothing. In that State, many people were imprisoned for debt. In 1786, many delegates to town meetings in western Massachusetts appealed to their State Government to do something but all to no avail. Groups of angry farmers and laborers began to meet at Conkey's Tavern and started military training. Soon mobs attempted to prevent foreclosure and debt imprisonment by forcibly closing the courts in several towns. In December 1786, the Governor of Massachusetts called out the State Militia to suppress the growing rebellion. On 25 Jan 1787, a mob of nearly 2,000 men led by Daniel Shays of Pelham tried to get arms from the arsenal at

Springfield, MA but were repulsed by the Militia. A force of 4,000 militia immediately gave chase and finally defeated and dispersed the mob on 2 Feb 1787. This ended the insurrection. Some of the leaders, including Daniel Shays who had fled to Vermont, were sentenced to death by the Massachusetts Supreme Court, but were later pardoned. It is quite likely that a number of Conkeys were involved in this historic event.

Sometime in the late 1780's or early 1790's, at least three of James Conkey's sons left Pelham and moved to Vermont, perhaps as a result of Shays Rebellion. As I have already noted, James was still living in Pelham at the time of the 1790 Census. After that, he apparently sold his farm and went to live with one of his sons in Orwell, VT. He died there on 4 May 1795 at the age of seventy-two. There is no record of his burial.

We have been unable to find any information on the Maklem family. Isabel Maklem was born on 10 May 1728 at Rutland, MA and moved with her parents to Pelham when she was nine years old. From this I have assumed that the family was Scotch-Irish like the Conkeys. There is no record of her death but it probably occurred at Pelham before James left for Vermont.

Harriet Conkey's grandfather was Joshua Conkey, the youngest son of James and Isabel. He was born at Pelham on 3 Mar 1760 and grew up on his father's farm there. On 2 Aug 1775, at the age of fifteen, Joshua enlisted in the Continental Army as a drummer. He served for a little over three months and returned home on 13 Nov 1775. The Scotch-Irish furnished many valuable soldiers to the Revolutionary War effort. As we have already seen, they were severely persecuted by the British all of the years that they lived in Ireland and so they had little love for them. The record shows that they served their new Country well during this experience even though they had only been here a little over fifty years.

A few days after his seventeenth birthday, Joshua enlisted again for three years on 14 Apr 1777. He served once more as a drummer and fifer. He was with the Continental Army at the Battle of Bennington, VT on 16 Aug 1777. There they defeated a British force comprised mainly of Hessians and took 700 prisoners. He was discharged from the Army on 14 Apr 1780. During the next two years, he served fourteen months in the Massachusetts Militia. He was discharged in the Spring of 1782 at West Point, NY and returned to his home at Pelham.

Joshua was married on 1 Jan 1782 to Millicent Bridge of Shutesbury, MA although the wedding was at Amherst, MA. We do not have a complete list of the children of Joshua and Millicent. The 1800 census listing for them shows ten children in the family and we know that two more were born after that so probably there were twelve children altogether. The first four or five of these children were probably born at Pelham. Joshua was one of the sons of James Conkey who moved to Vermont sometime after the end of the war, but we do not know exactly when. For some reason, the first U. S. Census was not taken in Vermont until 1791. At that time Joshua was living in Vermont and he and Millicent had five children. The remaining children were all born in Vermont except the youngest one who was born in New York.

After 1800, the great western expansion began in the United States. In the summer of 1803, Joshua moved his family and all of his belongings to north central New York, a distance of about 150 miles from his home in Vermont. He arrived in Pottsdam, NY 14 Jul 1803 where he purchased land and built a house. On 5 Sep 1808, Joshua received a deed for seventy-three acres of land at nearby Canton, NY that he had purchased from a Richard Garison for \$300.00. He moved to this new location.

When new troubles with the British erupted into the War of 1812, Joshua Conkey at the age of fifty-two, once again volunteered to serve his country. He was given a Captain's Commission in an artillery company. In action at Ogdensburg, NY he was captured by the

British and sent to Halifax, Nova Scotia. Some time later he was released in a prisoner exchange and shipped back to Boston. Apparently he had no money at this time and so he walked the entire distance from Boston to Canton, NY which appears to be about 300 miles as the crow flies.

In 1816, Joshua transferred some of his land to his son, Joshua Jr. In 1820 at the age of sixty, he applied for a Revolutionary soldier's pension. In his declaration he said that in addition to farming he had practiced the carpenter's trade. However, he had fallen on hard times and was forced to sell his tools. And now his health was too poor for him to work any more. He said that he had forty-three acres of land at Canton with only fourteen acres cleared. He had a poor log house and barn, one cow, one old mare (blind in one eye) eleven sheep, two hogs, one plough, one chain, one hoe, one scythe, two sickles, two rakes, one pitchfork, one shovel, one pot, 2 kettles, one tin pail, two tin pans, one tea kettle, one tea pot, six cups and saucers, six knives and forks and unpaid debts. He signed this application on 11 Oct 1820 and was granted a pension that he received the remainder of his life. Apparently the pension was not enough to handle his debts because in 1825 the sheriff sold some of his property at auction to satisfy some creditors. Joshua died on 23 Oct 1840 at age eighty while living with his son-in-law, Thomas D. Olin, in Canton. Probably he had given the remainder of his land to one of his sons. There is no record of a will. He is buried in the "Bridge" Cemetery at Canton that is named for his wife's family. We found stones for at least twenty-five Conkeys in this Cemetery including those of Joshua and Millicent.

The immigrant ancestor of the Bridge family was John Bridge, the third great grandfather of Millicent Bridge. He was born in England but the date is not recorded. He was married (wife unknown) and had two sons born in England. John Bridge came to New England in 1631 as a widower with his two sons. He settled in Cambridge, MA where he spent the remainder of his life. On 29 Nov 1658, he was married for the second time to Elizabeth, the widow of Martin Sounders but they had no children. John Bridge died on 15 Apr 1665. In his will proved on 8 Oct 1665, he mentions wife Elizabeth, son Matthew, and granddaughter Dorcas, daughter of his second son, Thomas, who had preceded him in death. His estate was valued at about 375 Pounds Sterling. Millicent's second great grandfather was Matthew Bridge, the first son of John Bridge. He was born in England about 1615 and was sixteen years old when he came with his father to the New World. He lived with his father until 19 Jan 1643 when he was married to Anna Danforth. Matthew and Anna had seven children, all born at Cambridge, MA. Also in the year 1643, Matthew became a member of the "Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company". By this time Cambridge was becoming crowded since it was surrounded by the towns of Charleston, Boston and Watertown. The proprietors of Cambridge began looking for new lands out toward their northwest. The land that they found was originally called "Cambridge Farms". This was later changed to Lexington. By 1648, Matthew owned over 400 acres at Lexington although he continued to live at Cambridge. In 1657, he bought land on Main Street in Cambridge where he lived until 1668. At that time he finally moved to his property in Lexington where he was one of the largest landowners of the new town.

In 1672, the oldest son of Matthew and Anna, John Bridge age twenty-seven, died at Boston. The next year and in the space of one month, two other sons, Samuel aged twenty and Thomas aged fifteen also died. This suggests some sort of contagious disease. The following quote is taken from a Bridge family history written in 1924:

“There are standing in the old burying ground at Cambridge, pieces of the original stones, in fairly good condition, placed there in February and March of 1673, with inscriptions of the birth and death of sons Samuel and Thomas.”

Matthew Bridge energetically served the new settlement at Lexington for the rest of his life. He was involved when the town was organized in 1692. He was one of the four largest contributors when the meeting house was built. When the first parish tax was laid he was, once again, one of the four largest taxpayers. He died at Lexington on 28 Apr 1700.

Anna Danforth was the daughter of Nicholas Danforth and Elizabeth Symmes. The Danforth family was one of the finest families that Old England ever furnished to New England. They were highly educated, well off in worldly goods, capable of progressive business activities and religiously cultured far beyond the average of their English neighbors. They had large land holdings at Framingham, England where Anna was born in about 1622. Her mother, Elizabeth Symmes, died in 1629 when Anna was only seven years old. At about this time, King Charles I decreed that all persons above a certain income level were required to become a Knight of the Realm and Protector of the English Church. This decree applied to Nicholas Danforth. However, he was a secret Puritan and did not support the established Church. In order to avoid being Knighted, Nicholas Danforth disposed of all of his property and came to New England in 1634 with his children. He settled first at Salem but found the place to be inhospitable and so he soon moved to Cambridge. In 1635 he bought land in Cambridge from at least five different persons. In the same year he was named as a Representative to the General Court. He assisted in laying out the boundaries for the towns of Roxbury, Dedham and Dorchester. When Harvard College was inaugurated at Cambridge, he was elected on 20 Nov 1637 as one of the Inauguration Committee. Nicholas Danforth died in 1638 at Cambridge. Anna Danforth was baptized in Framingham, England on 3 Sep 1622. She died at Lexington on 9 Dec 1704 at the age of eighty-two.

Millicent Bridge's great grandfather was Matthew Bridge Jr., the second and only surviving son of Matthew Sr. and Anna Danforth. He was born at Cambridge on 5 Mar 1650. He was about eighteen years old when his family moved to Lexington. He was about twenty-two years old when his three brothers died leaving him as the only male heir to his father's property, so he inherited a large portion of this considerable estate. Matthew Jr. served as a soldier during King Philip's War in 1675 and also during the Canadian Expedition of 1690. He was married in 1687 to Abigail Russell of Cambridge. Matthew Jr. and Abigail had nine children all born at Lexington. Matthew Jr. served his community with considerable energy. He was a selectman and town clerk in 1713. He served as town treasurer from 1713 to 1717. He was a prominent member of the Church. After reaching an advanced age, he divided up his land between his four sons. He died at Cambridge on 29 May 1738 and was buried in the old burying ground at Lexington. He has quite a lengthy inscription on his tombstone. He left a will written on 7 May 1730 and amended on 8 Aug 1735 that mentions four sons and three daughters. His two oldest daughters had preceded him in death but left three grandsons who are also mentioned in the will. His two youngest daughters, who were unmarried at the time the will was written, were given a place to live and the use of his pew in the meeting house until they were married.

Abigail Russell was the daughter of Joseph Russell and Mary Belcher. She was born at Cambridge on 12 May 1668 and she died at Lexington on 14 Dec 1722.

Millicent Bridge's grandfather was Joseph Bridge, the second son of Matthew Jr. and Abigail Russell. He was born at Lexington on 8 Jul 1698. Not very much is recorded about

Joseph. He was married on 18 Nov 1722 to Abigail Cutler of Lexington. Joseph and Abigail had six children, all born at Lexington. Joseph was the town assessor in 1741 and a select man from 1758 to 1760. He left a will dated 10 Jun 1775. He died at Lexington on 1 Nov 1778 and his will was probated on 5 Jan 1779.

The immigrant ancestor of the Cutler family was Abigail's great grandfather, James Cutler. He was born in England in 1606 and came to New England as a young man. It is not known exactly when he arrived but the first record of him is in Watertown in 1634 when he was one of the original grantees of land in the north part of town. He was married, probably in that year, to Anna (surname unknown). There is a family tradition that Anna and a sister were so opposed and tantalized in England for their Puritanism that they resolved to seek their fortunes in New England, and came unattended by parents or near friends. James and Anna had four children all born at Watertown. Anna died on 30 Sep 1644 and James was married for the second time to Mary, the widow of Thomas King. They had three more children. Mary died 7 Dec 1654. Sometime later, James was married for the third time to Phoebe Page and they had about five more children.

James Cutler's first house lot in Watertown contained eight acres. In the first division of land on 25 Jul 1636, he was assigned twenty-five acres of farm land and three acres of pasture. In the fourth division in 1642, he was given eighty-two acres and four more house lots. On 13 Dec 1649, James Cutler and a partner bought 200 acres of land at Cambridge Farms, which we have already seen later became Lexington, for seventy pounds. On 4 Mar 1651, he sold his share to his partner for thirty-nine pounds and bought another farm at Lexington. It is thought that James Cutler built one of the first houses in Lexington on that farm and the land remained in the family for over 200 years. He died at Lexington on 17 May 1694 at the age of eighty-eight. In his will he not only provided for all of his children but was also very generous with sons-in-law and step-children.

Abigail Cutler's grandfather was James Cutler Jr., the first child of James Sr. and Anna. He was born at Watertown on 6 Sep 1635. He spent his youth there and was about sixteen when his father moved to Lexington. He was married on 15 Jun 1665 to Lydia Moore who was the widow of Samuel Wright. James Jr. and Lydia had eight children. He lived all of his life on some of his father's property at Lexington. He was a soldier in King Philip's War. He must have suffered from some serious illness or accident because he made his will on 28 Jul 1685 and he died on 31 Jul 1685 at the relatively young age of fifty. His will left all of his property to his wife, Lydia, since all seven of their children were still minors at the time.

Lydia Moore's father was John Moore. He was born in England and came to New England in 1638 or, perhaps, even before that. He settled in Sudbury and bought a house lot from Edmond Rice in 1642. On 9 Jul 1645, he took the oath of fidelity and that same year he bought another house lot and all of the other land belonging to John Stone. The name of John Moore's first wife is unknown but they had two children. His second wife was Elizabeth Whale and they had six more children. John Moore died on 6 Jan 1674. He left a will dated 25 Aug 1668 that was probated on 7 Apr 1674. The will mentions all eight of his children and named his widow, Elizabeth, as executrix. The widow died on 14 Dec 1690. John's estate was valued at more than 800 Pounds sterling. Lydia Moore was the third child and youngest daughter of John Moore and Elizabeth Whale. She was born at Sudbury on 24 Jun 1643. She was married on 8 May 1664 to Samuel Wright. He was killed by the Indians only three months later on 21 Aug 1664. As we have seen, she married James Cutler the next year. She was only forty-two years old with seven minor children when James died. However, there is no record that she ever married again.

Sometime in later life, she moved from Lexington back to Sudbury where she died on 23 Nov 1723 at the age of eighty.

Abigail Cutler's father was Thomas Cutler, the sixth child of James Cutler Jr. and Lydia Moore. Thomas was born at Lexington on 15 Dec 1677 where he resided the greater part of his life. He was only eight years old when his father died; although he did have four older brothers to help him grow up. He was married in 1702 to Sarah Stone. Thomas and Sarah had eight children, all born at Lexington. He was the constable of Lexington in 1719 and was a selectman for the town in 1729, 1731, 1733 and 1734. Sarah Stone died on 10 Jan 1750 and Thomas Cutler was married again on 10 Apr 1750 to Lydia Simonds. In the fall of 1750, he sold all of his property around Lexington and bought a farm at Warren, MA which is in the central part of the state, but still only about fifty miles from Lexington. On 17 May 1752, Thomas and his new wife, Lydia, were dismissed from the Church in Lexington so that they could become members in good standing of the Church at Warren. He died at Warren on 23 Dec 1759 at the age of eighty-two. He left a will made on 15 Sep 1759. It is interesting that he left 'half the service of his negro man' to each of his two sons. There were twenty slaves owned in Lexington at that time and Thomas Cutler owned one of them.

The immigrant ancestor of the Stone family was Sarah Stone's great grandfather, Deacon Gregory Stone, the son of the Reverend Timothy Stone of Great Bromley, Essex County, England. Gregory was born in 1590. He was married to Margaret Garrard on 30 Jul 1617. They had two children and then Margaret died in 1626. Gregory was remarried to Lydia Cooper and they had six more children. Gregory and Lydia with all eight children came to New England in 1635. They settled at Watertown first and then in 1638 they moved to Cambridge. Gregory was an extensive landowner at Cambridge and also a Deacon of the Church. He died there on 30 Nov 1672. Sarah Stone's grandfather was Samuel Stone, the fifth child of Gregory and Lydia Cooper. He was born in England in 1631 and was four years old when his family came to Massachusetts. He was married on 7 Jun 1655 to Sarah Stearns of Watertown. Samuel and Sarah had eight children, all born at Cambridge Sarah died on 4 Oct 1700 and Samuel died on 27 Sep 1715. He had a second wife, Abigail, who died at Woburn, MA on 11 May 1718. Sarah Stearns was the daughter of Isaac Stearns and Mary Barker. It should be noted here that I am also descended from Isaac Stearns and Mary Barker on my father's side of the family through a line from Sarah Stearns' sister, Abigail Stearns. Because of this, the Stearns family has already been covered in another chapter of this book. Briefly, Isaac Stearns was born in England in 1603, married to Mary Barker there, came to New England with the Governor Winthrop party in 1630, settled in Watertown and became quite prominent there. Isaac and Mary had eight children with the first three probably born in England and the other five in Watertown. Isaac died on 19 Jun 1671 and Mary died on 2 Apr 1677. Sarah Stearns was born at Watertown on 22 Sep 1635, the fifth child of Isaac and Mary. Her sister, Abigail, did not have her birth recorded at Watertown but was the eighth and last child of the family.

Sarah Stone's father was Samuel Stone Jr., the first child of Samuel Sr. and Sarah Stearns. He was born on 1 Oct 1656 at Cambridge. He was married on 12 Jun 1679 to Dorcas Jones of Concord. Samuel Jr. and Dorcas had seven children all born at Lexington. Samuel Jr. died on 17 Jun 1743 and Dorcas died 24 Sep 1746, both at Lexington. Dorcas Jones was the daughter of John Jones. We have been unable to find very much on the Jones family. Dorcas was the sixth child of the family, born at Concord on 29 May 1659. Sarah Stone was the third child of Samuel Stone Jr. and Dorcas Jones. She was born at Lexington on 26 Jun 1686. Finally, we are back to Abigail Cutler who married Joseph Bridge. Abigail was the first child of Thomas Cutler

and Sarah Stone. She was born at Lexington on 2 Jun 1703. Abigail outlived Joseph by nineteen years. She died at Lexington on 13 Dec 1797 at the age of ninety-four.

Millicent Bridge's father was Thomas Bridge, the first child of Joseph Bridge and Abigail Cutler. He was born at Lexington on 8 Jul 1723. By the time that he came of age in 1744, the large Bridge estate from three generations back must have been getting quite crowded. At any rate, Thomas moved in that year to Spencer, MA which is out in the center of the state. On 5 Nov 1745, Thomas was married to Mary Harrington of Brookfield. They had ten children all born at Spencer. At the first organization of the town of Spencer on 14 May 1753, Thomas Bridge was elected one of the two fence viewers. In 1771, Thomas and Mary moved again with their entire family to Shutesbury, MA which was about twenty miles northwest of Spencer. The death date for Thomas Bridge is unknown but he does appear in the Shutesbury records in 1795 so we know that he lived at least until then.

The immigrant ancestor of the Harrington family was Mary Harrington's great grandfather, Robert Harrington, who was born in England on 1 Oct 1616. He first appears in the Colonies as the last name on the list of proprietors of Watertown in 1642. At that time he owned a house lot that had been given to him by a Deacon Thomas Hastings indicating that he was related to the Deacon. Robert Harrington was married on 10 Oct 1648 to Susanna George. Robert and Susanna had thirteen children; although, two of them died young, one was killed by the Indians at age twenty during King Philip's War and one other preceded his father in death. Susanna George died at Watertown on 6 Jul 1694 and Robert died on 17 May 1707 at the age of ninety-one. He made a will on 1 Jan 1705 in which he mentions all nine of his surviving children. His inventory showed sixteen different pieces of land amounting to 642 acres valued at 717 Pounds sterling. It is believed that all persons named Harrington in this Country are descended from Robert of Watertown.

Mary Harrington's grandfather was Edward Harrington, born on 2 Mar 1669 at Watertown. Edward was married on 30 Mar 1692 to Mary Ocington. Edward and Mary had nine children. Two of these children died young and one son, Nathaniel Harrington, graduated from Harvard College in 1728. Mary Ocington died on 23 Oct 1725 and Edward was married again on 24 May 1727 to Anna, the widow of Jonathan Bullard. Edward died on 21 Jan 1736.

Mary Harrington's father was Samuel Harrington, the sixth child of Edward and Mary Ocington. Samuel was born on 3 Aug 1704 at Watertown. He was married on 19 Oct 1725 to Sarah Warren of Weston, MA although they lived at Waltham, MA. They had two children, both baptized on 19 May 1728, but this does not necessarily mean that they were twins. Sarah Warren died that same year, however the record does not indicate whether her death was related to childbirth. There is also no record that Samuel was ever married again although it does seem likely. Samuel died at Westboro, MA on 18 Mar 1784 at the age of seventy-nine.

The immigrant ancestor of the Warren family was the second great grandfather of Sarah Warren, John Warren. John was born in England in 1585. His wife was Margaret (surname unknown). They had four children all born in England. John and his family came to New England in 1630 when he was forty-five years old. They settled in Watertown and John was made a freeman on 18 May 1631. He was a selectman for Watertown from 1636 to 1640. In 1635, he and Abraham Browne were appointed to lay out all highways and to see that they were repaired. In 1642 he had a house lot of twelve acres and his neighbor on the south side was Isaac Stearns whom we have already seen is also an ancestor. At that time, John Warren owned seven other lots amounting to about 176 acres. In October 1651, John and another man were each fined twenty Shillings for an offence against the laws concerning baptism. On 4 Apr 1654, he was

fined for neglect of public worship, fourteen Sabbaths at five Shillings each for a total of three Pounds, ten Shillings. On 14 Mar 1659, the record says that he was to be warned again for not attending public worship; but "Old Warren is not to be found in town". On 27 May 1661, the houses of John Warren and his neighbor on the east, William Hammond, were to be searched for Quakers. (We have found other ancestors in Massachusetts who were persecuted by the Puritans for being friendly with Quakers.) Margaret died at Watertown on 6 Nov 1662 and John died on 13 Dec 1667 at the age of eighty-two.

Sarah Warren's great grandfather was Daniel Warren, the third child of John and Margaret. Daniel was born in England in 1628 and was only two years old when his family came to New England. He was married on 10 Dec 1650 at Watertown to Mary Barron. Daniel and Mary had nine children. He took the oath of fidelity in 1652. Mary Barron died on 13 Feb 1716 and we have no death record for Daniel.

Sarah Warren's grandfather was Ensign John Warren, the seventh child of Daniel Warren and Mary Barron. Ensign John was born on 5 Mar 1666 at Watertown. He was married there on 22 Mar 1683 to Mary Brown. Ensign John and Mary had three children. He died on 11 Jul 1703 at the very young age of thirty-seven. Mary Brown was remarried to another Samuel Harrington (not our ancestor).

Sarah Warren's father was Deacon John Warren, the first child of Ensign John and Mary Brown. Deacon John was born on 15 Mar 1685 at Watertown. He was married on 26 May 1704 to Sarah Jones. Sarah died from complications of childbirth on 9 Jul 1705. After the death of his wife, Deacon John moved to Weston, MA and was married again on 2 Jun 1708 to Abigail Livermore. They had twelve children. Abigail died of dysentery on 31 Oct 1743 at the age of sixty. Deacon John was married for the third time on 20 Jun 1744 to the widow, Lydia Bond. He was chosen as Deacon of the Church at Weston in 1733. He died at Weston on 25 Mar 1745.

Sarah Warren was the only child of Deacon John and Sarah Jones. She was born at Watertown on 25 Jun 1705 and was only fifteen days old when her mother died. It is quite a coincidence that Sarah Warren and her mother both died young, probably from childbirth.

Mary Harrington was one of two children of Samuel Harrington and Sarah Warren who were baptized on 19 May 1728. She is listed second so, if they are not twins, she must have been the younger one. We have found no record of the death of Mary Harrington.

And now we return to Millicent Bridge, the wife of our Joshua Conkey. Millicent was the ninth child of Thomas Bridge and Mary Harrington. She was born at Spencer, MA on 14 May 1761. Joshua died in 1840 and on 18 May 1843, Millicent, at the age of eighty-one, applied for a widow's pension from the Government. Her application was granted and she received the pension until 23 Oct 1849 when she died at the age of eighty-eight. Her death was at Canton NY and she is buried in the "Bridge" Cemetery along side of Joshua.

Harriet Conkey's father was Jacob Conkey. As I have previously mentioned, we do not have a precise list of the children of Joshua and Millicent but we think that Jacob was the tenth child. Jacob was born on 10 Jun 1800 at Shoreham, VT. He was three years old when his family moved to Pottsdam, NY and then eight years old when they moved on to nearby Canton. Jacob was too young to be involved in the War of 1812; although his father and at least two older brothers served. The people of Canton, NY were concerned about being attacked since they were only a few miles from the Canadian border. The town, however, was spared. Jacob was married on 13 Oct 1825 to Amy Rice at Pottsdam. Jacob and Amy had ten children but they had a lot of bad luck with them. The first three were born in New York. Jacob and Amy and their three children moved to Farmer Township, Defiance County, Ohio, which is in the northwest corner of

the State sometime after the third child was born in 1831. The first child, a daughter Laura, died in October 1834 at the age of seven. The fourth child, Sylvia, born in September 1834 died in January 1835 at four months old. The third child, Olive, died in Mar 1835 at the age of three and one half. In the space of six months, the family lost three children, probably to some disease contracted during or after their move to Ohio.

In 1835 Jacob bought Government land and started farming in Ohio. Five more children were born there. After eighteen years in Ohio, Jacob sold his farm and took his family to Fayette County, Iowa. There he bought a farm about two miles south of West Union in the fall of 1853. Then, tragedy struck the family again. In June 1854, the ninth child, Geneva, died at the age of three and one half. In February 1854, the fifth child Jacob, who was eighteen years old, died. Finally in June 1854, the tenth child, Amy, who was born in Iowa, died at the age of nine months. So, once again, in the space of six months, the family lost three more children. Those must have been sad days for Jacob and Amy. Only four of the ten children grew to be adults. Jacob continued to farm in Fayette County until his death on 28 Aug 1869 at the age of sixty-nine. He is buried in the West Union Cemetery along side of his three children who died in Iowa.

The immigrant ancestor of the Rice family was John Rice, the third great grandfather of Amy Rice. It is thought that he was Welsh although his parents are unknown. He was born somewhere in England in 1646. He came to New England in 1661 at the age of fifteen and settled at Warwick, Rhode Island. He came in the company of Edward Claverly, an English Army Officer, apparently as an indentured servant. Presumably he was a freeman after he reached the age of twenty-one. On 16 Jul 1674 he was married to Elizabeth Holden. The records show only two children for them. John Rice died at Warwick, RI on 6 Jan 1731 at the age of eighty-five. Elizabeth Holden was the daughter of Randall Holden and Frances Dugan. She was born at Warwick, RI in Aug 1652 and died there in 1730 at the age of seventy-eight.

Amy Rice's second great grandfather was John Rice Jr. the first child of John Sr. and Elizabeth Holden. John Jr. was born at Warwick, RI in 1675 and spent his entire life there. He was married on 25 Jul 1695 to Elnathan Whipple of Providence, RI. They had eleven children all born at Warwick although one died young. John Jr. died at Warwick on 9 Jan 1755 at the age of eighty. He left a will dated 17 Aug 1753 that was proved on 10 Feb 1755. In the will he provided for all of his children from a very large estate valued at more than 3,360 Pounds sterling.

Elnathan Whipple was the granddaughter of John Whipple. John was born in Wales in 1617 and came to New England in 1632, at the age of fifteen, as an apprentice to the carpenter, Israel Stoughton. They settled in Dorchester, MA. In 1637 John Whipple was on his own and received a grant of land at Dorchester where he built a house. In 1639 he was married to Sarah. Her surname is uncertain since we have found both Hutchinson and Darling for her. Perhaps one of these is her maiden name and the other a name from a previous marriage. John and Sarah joined the Dorchester Church in 1641 and lived on their land there for eighteen years. Eight children were born there. In 1658, John Whipple sold his land at Dorchester and moved his family to Providence, RI. There he received another grant of land on 29 Jul 1659 where he built a new home. Three more children were born to John and Sarah at Providence. Sarah died in 1666 leaving him with a family of several small children, the youngest being less than one year old. His two oldest daughters were twenty-four and eighteen, and with their help, he managed to raise his young family. John took the oath of allegiance in 1666. He was a member of the town council at Providence in 1669 and received a license "to keep an ordinary" or an inn in 1674. The Whipple Inn became a favorite meeting place for the town council and the Court of Probate. In

October 1690, a session of the Rhode Island General Assembly was actually held at the Whipple Inn. During King Philip's War in 1675, Providence came under a severe attack by the Indians. Most of the citizens escaped to Newport, RI where they could be protected better. A small group of men, including John Whipple, decided to stay behind and attempt to save the town. The Rhode Island military records state that John Whipple was given credit for being one of the main defenders who saved the town of Providence from being completely destroyed by the Indians. He was known as Captain John Whipple after that. Captain John died 16 May 1685 at the age of sixty-eight. He was buried along side Sarah in the garden of their home. Some years later, they were moved to the North Burying Place in Providence. Their tombstones are still very readable indicating that they were placed there many years after the deaths. Sarah's stone says that she was born at Dorchester and died in 1666 at the age of forty-two. This would make her birth date in 1624. There is obviously an error here since Dorchester was not founded until 1630. So, in addition to not knowing her surname, we also do not know where she was born.

Elnathan Whipple's father was John Whipple Jr., the first child of Captain John and Sarah. John Jr. was born at Dorchester and baptized there on 7 Mar 1641. He was about seventeen when his family moved to Providence, RI. He was married there on 4 Dec 1663 to Mary Olney. John Jr. and Mary had four children all born at Providence. During his lifetime, John Jr. held many civic offices. He was town treasurer in 1668 and 1683. He was a member of the Rhode Island General Assembly from Providence in 1669, 1670, 1674, 1677, 1681, 1682, 1684, 1686 and 1690. He was town clerk in 1670, 1671, 1678 and 1681. Finally, he was a member of the town council in 1674, 1681 and 1682. Mary Olney died in 1676 and John Whipple Jr. was married on 15 Apr 1678 to Rebecca Scott. John and Rebecca had one child. John died at Providence on 15 Dec 1700.

Mary Olney was the daughter of Thomas Olney. Thomas was born in Hertfordshire County, England in 1600. In 1631, he was married to Marie Small and two children were born in England. In 1635, Thomas Olney received a royal permit to colonize in New England with his family. They arrived on 2 Apr 1635 in the ship "PLANTER" and settled in Salem, MA. One more child was born there. Thomas was given land in 1636 and was made a freeman on 17 May 1637. Thomas Olney soon found himself associating with those who followed the "Baptist" views of Roger Williams. Because of this, on 12 Mar 1638, they were ordered to "depart from the Colony". Thomas Olney, Roger Williams and eleven other men from Massachusetts took their families to Rhode Island to begin a new settlement. They selected a site on the west side of the Seekonk River at the head of Narragansett Bay for their new town. These men were the thirteen original proprietors and named their town Providence, in grateful remembrance of their deliverance from oppression. Thomas was chosen the first treasurer of the colony in 1638. In 1647 he was chosen commissioner to form a town government. He was chosen as assistant from Providence in 1648 and in 1665, he was named, along with Roger Williams and Thomas Harris, as a judge of the justice court. Thomas Olney was also one of the founders of the Baptist Church of Providence. He and Marie had four more children born there. He died at Providence in 1682 at the age of about eighty-two. Mary Olney was the sixth child of Thomas and Marie. She was born at Providence in 1643. She died there in 1676 at the age of only thirty-three.

Elnathan Whipple was the fourth child of John Jr. and Mary Olney. She was born at Providence on 2 Jan 1675. She was only about one year old when her mother died. Obviously, she was raised by her step-mother. Elnathan died at Warwick, RI in 1753 at the age of seventy-eight.

Amy Rice's great grandfather was Randall Rice, the tenth child of John Rice Jr. and Elnathan Whipple. He was born at Warwick on 21 May 1714 and lived there his entire life. Randall is referred to in the record as Captain although we do not know of any military connections for him. He was married on 16 Mar 1735 to Dinah Greene. They lived on the family homestead which came to him from his father's will that provided "to son Randall all homestead both sides the way and all other lands, stocks and movables". Randall and Dinah had fifteen children. Not surprisingly, after that many children, Dinah died first although we do not know the exact date. Randall was married for the second time on 22 Dec 1768 to Mercy Higinbottom, the widow of Dr. Charles Higinbottom. Just nine months later on 22 Sep 1769, Randall Rice made his will. His inventory was taken on 8 Nov 1769 so his death was sometime between these two dates. The will mentions his second wife, Mercy, and gives her all of her personal estate that she had when he married her. The will also mentions Mercy's three sons by her previous marriage. Randall then names thirteen of his children with Dinah Greene. Apparently two of the children had already died.

The Greene family can be traced back at least to Dinah's fifth great grandfather in England. His name was Robert Greene who owned a large estate at Bowridge Hill in Dorset County, England. His name appears on the tax rolls in 1543 during the reign of Henry VIII, in 1547 during the reign of Edward VI and 1558 during the reign of Elizabeth I. The estate passed to the oldest son who died young leaving no children. The property was then inherited by the second son, Richard Greene, who was Dinah's fourth great grandfather. Richard's name appears on the tax rolls in 1587, the twenty-ninth year of the reign of Elizabeth I. His will was written on 10 May 1606 and proved on 3 May 1608. The estate at Bowridge Hill went to his only son, Richard Jr., who was Dinah's third great grandfather. Richard Jr. was married to Mary Hooker and they had ten children.

The immigrant ancestor of the Greene family was Dinah Greene's second great grandfather, John Greene. He was born at Bowridge Hill in about 1590. He was the fourth child and the fourth son of Richard Jr. and Mary Hooker. With three older brothers, John had very little chance of inheriting the estate so he took training as a surgeon. He moved to Salisbury in Wiltshire County, England and was married there on 4 Nov 1619 to Joanne Tattershall. John and Joanne had seven children, although one died young. John followed his profession at Salisbury for about sixteen years. On 6 Apr 1635, he was registered for embarkation at Hampton, England, with his wife and six children, in the ship "JAMES", of 200 tons, William Cooper, Master, for New England. After a voyage of fifty-eight days, they arrived at Boston on 3 Jun 1635. The Greens first settled at Salem where John became associated with Roger Williams and his followers. Like our ancestor, Thomas Olney, John Greene was expelled from Massachusetts on 12 Mar 1638 and he also became one of the thirteen original proprietors of Providence, RI. Joanne Tattershall died shortly after the family moved to Rhode Island. John was married for a second time to a widow, Alice Daniels. In 1642, John and Alice moved to Warwick, RI. At this time the Massachusetts Colonial Government was still trying to control these "rebels" in Rhode Island and did not recognize it as a separate Colony. In October 1643, forty mounted and armed men were sent to Warwick from Massachusetts to arrest the men living there. These men fired over the roofs of the houses and all of the women and children fled to the woods. Although this effort was unsuccessful, John Greene's second wife, Alice, died from fright and exposure during this ordeal.

In 1644, John Greene went back to London where he was married for the third time to Phillipa (surname unknown) and they returned to Warwick, RI in 1646 where they lived for the

remainder of their lives. John Greene was the first professional medical man to practice in Rhode Island and was very popular with his patients. We are told that the people of Providence relied solely upon him for surgical aid long after he had moved to Warwick. He was also a prominent man in the public affairs of the town and Colony. He enjoyed the confidence and respect of his associates through a long and active political life, holding office almost continuously until the summer before his death when he refused to accept another office. John Greene, surgeon, died in the first week of January 1659 at Warwick and was buried there beside one of his two first wives, although it is not certain which one. His will was written on 28 Dec 1658 and was proved on 7 Jan 1659. He left a large estate to his children and grandchildren and much of his real property was still owned by descendants in 1900. His third wife, Phillippa, died at Warwick on 11 Mar 1687 at the age of about eighty-seven.

Dinah Greene's great grandfather was James Greene, the fourth child of Dr. John and Joanne Tattershall. He was baptized on 21 Jun 1626 at St. Thomas's Church of Salisbury, England. He was about nine years old when his family came to New England. He was made a freeman of both Warwick and Providence and granted a six-acre house lot at Warwick in 1647. James was town clerk in 1661 and the record says he was "an excellent penman of the old English text". He was married in 1658 to Deliverance Potter. They had four children born at Warwick. Deliverance died in 1664 at the age of only twenty-seven, probably soon after the birth of her fourth child on 27 Aug 1664. James was married again on 3 Aug 1665 to Elizabeth Anthony of Portsmouth, RI. They had eight more children. James Greene was a member of the General Assembly for the Colony as a Commissioner under the first charter and a deputy or assistant under the second charter for ten years between 1660 and 1675. He was reported to be "a man of much practical sagacity". He does not appear to have been active in public life after King Philip's War in 1675 when his house, along with all the other houses in Warwick, were burned to the ground. James and his family escaped to the home of his second wife's father, John Anthony, in Portsmouth. The Greene family remained around Portsmouth for several years. In 1684, James bought new land near Warwick and returned there. He built a large home on a hill near the west bank of the Pawtuxet River and lived there for the remainder of his life. James Greene died on 27 Apr 1698 at the age of seventy-two. He is buried in the Old Warwick Burial Ground which is located on the original six-acre lot granted to him when he came of age in 1647. His second wife, Elizabeth Anthony, also died in 1698. His will was dated 27 May 1697 and proved on 25 May 1698. The will provided for all of his children. Descendants of James Greene lived in his house by the River for more than 200 years.

Dinah Greene's grandfather was also James Greene, the first child of James and Deliverance Potter. He was born on 1 Jun 1659 at Warwick. He was admitted a freeman of the Colony on 26 Jun 1683 when he was twenty-four years old. He is referred to as Captain in the records but we are unaware of any military activities that he was involved in. He apparently came back to Warwick in 1684. In 1685, he joined with others in a petition to the General Assembly for settling new land in the area. Apparently the petition was successful because Captain James had land and built a house on it in 1687. This house was also still standing 200 years later. He was married on 29 Jan 1689 to Mary Fones of Kingstown, RI. Captain James and Mary had eight children, all born at Warwick. On 5 May 1696, Captain James was named deputy from Warwick to the General Assembly. On 14 Nov 1711, he was allowed the use of 300 Pounds sterling in bills of credit, interest free for four years, in return for nine months service accompanying his uncle, Major John Greene, who was the Agent for the Colony to England. Captain James died on 12 Mar 1712 at the age of fifty-two and was buried in his father's burial

ground at Old Warwick. His will was written on 11 Mar 1712, only one day before he died and leaves half of his farm to his widow, Mary Fones, and the other half to his oldest son.

Mary Fones was the daughter of Captain John Fones and his wife, Margaret. Captain John was one of the prominent planters of Kingstown, RI. He was a member of the court-martial at Newport, RI for a trial of the Indians on 24 Aug 1676 at the end of King Philip's War. He was a deputy to the General Assembly from 1679 to 1681. On 16 May 1686, he was appointed Justice of the Peace by the President and Council then governing New England. He was named Clerk of the Court of Commissioners on 23 Jun 1686. He served as a deputy again in 1698 and 1699. Captain John Fones died on 20 Dec 1703 and left by his will a legacy of land to his "daughter Mary". Mary Fones was born at Kingstown in 1671 and she died at Warwick on 20 Mar 1721 at the age of about fifty.

Dinah Greene's father was Fones Greene, the first child of Captain James and Mary Fones. He was born at Warwick on 23 Mar 1690. He was only twenty-one when he inherited his father's house and half of his farm so he continued to live there all of his life. On 15 Mar 1711, Fones was married to Dinah Beatty of Jamestown, RI. Sadly, Dinah drowned on 21 Mar 1711, only six days after she was married, by the upsetting of a boat traveling from Newport to Jamestown. Fones was married again on 29 Feb 1712 to Rebecca Tibbitts of North Kingstown. Fones and Rebecca had six children all born at Warwick. One daughter died at age nineteen. Fones was named a deputy from Warwick on 5 May 1724. He died on 29 Jul 1758 at the age of sixty-seven. His will was written on 10 Jul 1758 and gave the house by the River to his oldest son. Rebecca Tibbitts was the daughter of Henry and Rebecca Tibbitts. She was born in 1694 and died on 18 Feb 1765 at the age of seventy-one.

Dinah Greene was the second child of Fones and Rebecca. She was born at Warwick on 24 Dec 1715. As I have already pointed out, we do not know exactly when she died, but it had to be sometime before December 1768 when her husband, Randall Rice, was remarried. Dinah Greene was a cousin of Major General Nathaniel Greene, famous for his Revolutionary War exploits. At one time, in the absence of General Washington, Nathaniel Greene was the supreme commander of all of the American forces.

Amy Rice's grandfather was Nathan Rice, the tenth child of Captain Randall and Dinah Greene. He was born at Warwick on 28 May 1749. He grew up on his father's farm. The Rice family had grown so large that this generation of sons was running out of land to divide up. This caused a migration away from Rhode Island. Although we do not have the exact date, we think that Nathan was married in Rhode Island in about 1772 to Mary Briggs. On 7 Jan 1772, Nathan Rice and some of his brothers and cousins were part of a group of thirty-five men who were granted title to a large tract of land by the Governor of New York on behalf of King George III in what is now Rutland County, Vermont. This tract which contained 21,000 acres was to be called the township of Durham. Each proprietor was to pay a yearly tax to the King equal to two Shillings and six Pence for each 100 acres of land in their possession. Unfortunately, the control of this area was disputed by New Hampshire and they gave grants of the same land to other proprietors. This, of course, caused friction between the parties that was eventually settled by force in the fall of 1773 when a group of "Green Mountain Boys" led by Ethan Allen arrested the New York Agents in the area and found them guilty of preventing the New Hampshire claimants of the right to hold their lands. Thus, the problem was settled in favor of New Hampshire but some disputes continued for the next several years. The township was renamed Clarendon.

The Revolutionary War also served to divide the inhabitants of Clarendon into two groups, the Patriots and the Tories, with significant numbers in both camps. When the British

forces under Burgoyne came down the Champlain Valley in 1777, the town of Clarendon was partially deserted since the Patriots had gone south to Bennington and Manchester ahead of the advancing British. Most of the Tories remained in town and sought protection from the British. With the defeat of Burgoyne at Saratoga, the Tories found themselves in big trouble. On 26 Mar 1778, the Governor and Council, through the authority of the Vermont General Assembly, appointed a Court of Confiscation to “order the sale of estate, both real and personal, belonging to the enemies of the United States.”. The Court of Confiscation met on 23 Apr 1778 and issued a statement that basically said that the persons named, for notorious treasonable acts against the United States would forfeit the whole of their estate and the money raised from such sales would be put into the public treasury of the State of Vermont. There were thirty names on the list for the town of Clarendon. Many of these were the original New York proprietors. There were, however, no Rice names on this list. Of course, we have absolutely no reason to suspect that any of the Rice family were Tories. Throughout all of this turmoil, the Rices were permitted to keep their land even though they obtained it by the New York grants. We do not have an explanation for this but can speculate as follows: One of the prominent inhabitants of Clarendon was a Stephen Arnold who had obtained his land from New Hampshire. This Stephen Arnold was married to Rhoda Rice, a sister of Nathan Rice. Perhaps this was the key to the Rice immunity. It is interesting to note here that Stephen Arnold and Rhoda Rice were the great grandparents of Stephen Arnold Douglas, famous for the Lincoln-Douglas debates in Illinois during the 1858 Senate campaign. And so, because of our Rice ancestors, we are cousins of Stephen A. Douglas.

Nathan Rice and Mary Briggs had eleven children all born at Clarendon. Not surprisingly, Mary Briggs died at Clarendon on 26 Jul 1800 at the age of only forty-seven. Her youngest child was three years old at the time. In the 1800 census, Nathan Rice is shown with seven minor children. As near as we can determine, sometime between about 1805 and 1808, Nathan’s oldest son, Oney Rice, started to move west with his family. Apparently, Nathan and his younger children went also. They spent some undetermined amount of time in Peru, Clinton County, New York that is in the northeast corner of the State. Eventually, they ended up in the Canton/ Pottsdam area of north central New York. We know that they were in Peru in 1808 when Nathan’s granddaughter, our own Amy Rice, was born and they were still there in 1812 when Nathan’s nineteen year old son, William Rice, died. Sometime after that they moved on to Canton, St Lawrence County, New York. We have also been unable to determine either where or when Nathan Rice died.

The first record of the Briggs family is Mary Briggs’ great grandfather, John Briggs. On 1 Jan 1671, he and five others bought a tract of land from the Indians at Kingstown, RI. On 20 May 1671 John Briggs took the oath of allegiance and the same day was listed as a clerk for the militia company for the town. His wife’s name was Frances (surname unknown) and they had about ten children. In 1672, John bought fifty-seven acres of land for five Pounds. He was made a freeman in 1673. He was the town constable in 1678. There is some indication that John Briggs may have been a Quaker. One reference says that the first monthly meeting of the Society of Friends of Warwick, RI was held in his house. Both John and Frances Briggs died at Kingstown in 1697.

Mary Briggs’ grandfather was Richard Briggs, the fourth child of John and Frances. He was born on 1 Feb 1675 at Kingstown. He was married on 23 Sep 1700 to Susanna Spencer. They had eight children, all born at East Greenwich, RI. Susanna died in 1720 and Richard Briggs was married again to Experience Tarbox. They had four more children. Richard was

made a freeman in 1709. He died in Apr 1733. His will was dated 29 Mar 1733 and it was proved on 28 Apr 1733. The inventory of his estate showed a value of 484 Pounds sterling.

The immigrant ancestor of the Tarbox family was John Tarbox, the great grandfather of Experience Tarbox. He was born in England and was first reported in Lynn, MA in 1639. His wife was Rebecca (surname unknown) and they had four children, the first two born in England. John Tarbox died on 26 May 1674 at Lynn. At that time he owned seven acres of upland, an orchard, two cows and nine sheep. The estate was inventoried at about 160 Pounds sterling.

Experience Tarbox's grandfather was John Tarbox Jr., the third child of John Sr. and Rebecca. He was born at Lynn in 1645. He was married to Mary Haven in July 1667. They had thirteen children including triplets born on 14 Oct 1681. Unfortunately, these triplets all died in infancy. John Jr. inherited the bulk of his father's estate since an older brother had already died. Mary Haven died 19 Nov 1690. The death date for John Jr. is not known but he was still alive on 8 Jan 1723 when he sold his homestead to one of his sons.

Experience Tarbox's father was John Tarbox III, the first child of John Jr. and Mary Haven. He was born at Lynn on 3 Apr 1668. After he was married to Elizabeth (surname unknown), they moved to East Greenwich, RI where they lived the remainder of their lives. The only record of their children is the list of eight names of living children in the will of John III. This was written on 12 Sep 1747 when John III was seventy-nine years old. He died sometime before 28 Mar 1748 when the will was admitted to probate. The will gave only five Shillings each to seven of the children and the balance of the estate, which was inventoried at about 210 Pounds, went to one daughter. Presumably, she had taken care of him in his old age.

Experience Tarbox was the fifth child listed in the will but they are not necessarily in birth order. We do not know her birth date but it was probably about 1705. When her husband, Richard Briggs, died in 1733, she was left with four children under the age of six. There is no record that she was married again.

Mary Briggs' father was Daniel Briggs, the third child of Richard Briggs and his second wife, Experience Tarbox. Daniel was born at East Greenwich, RI on 29 Mar 1730 and was only three years old when his father died. As I have already mentioned, we are not aware of a step-father, but Daniel did have a number of older half-brothers and sisters to help with his upbringing. He was married on 17 Jan 1754 to Elizabeth Spencer. They had eleven children, the first nine born at East Greenwich, RI. In 1772, Daniel Briggs and his family joined his son-in-law, Nathan Rice, in their move to Rutland County, Vermont. Daniel Briggs was another of the thirty-five proprietors who received grants from the Governor of New York. The last two children were born in Vermont. Daniel built the first frame house in Clarendon in 1777. He purchased additional land in 1802 and 1815. Apparently Daniel Briggs was another of the few New York proprietors who were unmolested on their land at Clarendon. Daniel Briggs died on 6 Nov 1820 at Clarendon at the age of ninety.

The earliest Rhode Island ancestor of the Spencer family was Elizabeth Spencer's great grandfather, John Spencer. He may have been the son of a Spencer who came to Cambridge, MA in 1634 but this has not been verified. John Spencer first appears in the records at Newport, RI in 1661. He was made a freeman in 1668. In 1677, he was one of the first purchasers of land at East Greenwich, RI where he moved. He was town clerk there from 1677 to 1683, conservator of the peace in 1678 and deputy from his town in 1680. His wife's name was Susannah Griffin and they had nine children, some born at Newport and the rest at East Greenwich. Death dates have not been found for either John or Susannah.

Elizabeth Spencer's grandfather was John Jr., the first child of John Sr. and Susannah. He was born at Newport on 20 Apr 1666. He was married to Audrey Greene and there are two children recorded for them. John Spencer Jr. died at East Greenwich in 1743 at the age of seventy-seven.

Audrey Greene was the daughter of Major John Greene and Anne Almy. She was also the granddaughter of Dr. John Greene and his first wife, Joanne Tattershall, whom we have already met as ancestors in our earlier Rice line. Major John was the first child of Dr. John and Joanna. He was born in England and baptized in Salisbury on 15 Aug 1620. He was fifteen years old when his family came to New England. He lived in Providence until his father moved to Warwick in 1643. At that time he began to acquire his own land. He was married in about 1648 to Anne Almy of Portsmouth, RI. Major John and Anne had eleven children all born at Warwick. During his early adult life, Major John was town clerk and surveyor. On several occasions he was sent as Agent for the Colony of Rhode Island to England. For nearly fifty years he held the highest public offices. He was Captain of the Militia for eight years and "Major for the Main" for seven years during which he commanded all of the trained bands on the mainland of Rhode Island. This was the highest military rank in the Colony and accounts for his title. Major John Greene held every major office in the Colony culminating with his service as Deputy Governor for eleven years from 1690 through 1700 when he retired from public life at the age of eighty. He died in Warwick on 27 Nov 1708 at the age of eighty-nine. He is buried on his homestead and the original tombstone, that was imported from England, is still in good condition. He left a large estate to his survivors. One Rhode Island historian wrote of Major John Greene as follows:

"As judged in the light of his period by those who knew, there can be no doubt that whatever was done by John Greene was done in good faith; and no name is better entitled than his to the respect and gratitude of every true Rhode Islander"

Anne Almy died about six months after her husband on 6 May 1709 and is buried beside him on the farm. Her tombstone was also made in England.

Audrey Greene was the tenth child of Major John and Anne Almy. She was born at Warwick on 27 Oct 1667. She died at East Greenwich in 1733 at the age of sixty-six.

Elizabeth Spencer's father was William Spencer, the second child of John Jr. and Audrey Greene. He was born at East Greenwich on 6 May 1695. He was married on 10 May 1716 to Elizabeth Rice of Warwick. William and Elizabeth had ten children all born at East Greenwich. We do not have a death date for either William Spencer or Elizabeth Rice.

Elizabeth Rice was the second child of John Rice Jr. and Elnathan Whipple whom we have already met as the second great grandparents of our Amy Rice. Elizabeth was born on 8 May 1698 at Warwick.

Elizabeth Spencer was the fifth child of William Spencer and Elizabeth Rice. She was born at East Greenwich on 1 Dec 1727. She died at Clarendon, VT on 4 Apr 1819 in her ninety-first year.

Mary Briggs was the first child of Daniel Briggs and Elizabeth Spencer. She was born at East Greenwich on 29 Aug 1754. Mary Briggs is quite an interesting addition to our list of grandmothers. As we have just seen, her connection to the Rice family meant that she was a first cousin, one generation removed, to her husband, Nathan Rice. Also, because of her connection to the Greene family, she and Nathan were fourth cousins. This was not uncommon in those early days of the Colonies when, after two or three generations in the small settlements, practically

everyone was related. As I have already mentioned, Mary Briggs died on 26 Jul 1800 at a relatively young age.

Amy Rice's father was Oney Rice, the first child of Nathan Rice and Mary Briggs. He was born at Clarendon, VT on 6 Oct 1773. He was married to Amarilla Clark probably about 1795. Oney and Amarilla had ten children. The first five were born in Vermont and then, as I have already noted, sometime between about 1805 and 1808, the Rice families started to move west. They were in Peru, Clinton County, New York for a few years until 1812 when Oney's younger brother, William, died there. Apparently they went on to St. Lawrence County, New York in the spring or summer of 1813 since we have found an obituary for one of Amy Rice's younger sisters that says that she was born in October 1813 in St. Lawrence County, New York. In any case, the last five children for Oney and Amarilla were born someplace in New York. Although both the Conkeys and Rices came to St. Lawrence County from Rutland County, Vermont, we do not think that they were acquainted with each other until they arrived in Canton, New York. Probably they ended up being neighbors there. Both families farmed there for over twenty years.

In 1835, farming in northern New York was at a low ebb. Most of the farms had been purchased on "time" and the farmers were having trouble reducing their debts. Many decided to sell out and move further west. Two sons of Oney Rice and his son-in-law, Jacob Conkey, along with a few other neighbors at Canton decided to move to northwest Ohio where Government land was available. Oney Rice, who was sixty-two years old at the time, and his wife, Amarilla Clark went with the group. Many years later, one of the neighbors who went on the trip wrote his recollections of those days. Apparently, they had traveled by boat from northern New York to Cleveland, OH. He wrote:

"We left Cleveland in 1835 with team and wagon, found dry roads through the black swamp, forded the Maumee River at Maumee City, drove around tree tops, through ravines, up and down the bluff banks, without working. We reached Defiance, a town of about 150 inhabitants and found some of our acquaintances from St. Lawrence County who had preceded us. We left the teams and went on foot to Centertown where we found someone to show us land. We selected land there, each settler receiving eighty acres. We returned to Defiance, counted out our money and sent Jacob Conkey to the land office at Wapakoneta to get our certificate of title. There were only three other settlers in Farmer Township at that time."

And thus we find the Rices and Conkeys as pioneer settlers of Farmer Township, Defiance County, Ohio.

We do not think that Oney Rice farmed any more after moving to Ohio. Probably he and Amarilla lived with one of their sons. Amarilla died on 24 Sep 1852 at the age of seventy-three and Oney died three months later on 26 Dec 1852 at the age of seventy-seven. They are buried together in the Cemetery in Farmer Township.

In spite of a lot of effort, we have been unable to find the family of Amarilla Clark. We have found many Clarks in Vermont where Oney and Amarilla were married; but we cannot connect her to any of them. From her tombstone we do know that she was born in 1779 even though we do not know her parents.

Amy Rice was the sixth child of Oney Rice and Amarilla Clark. She was born at Peru, Clinton County, New York on 1 Jun 1808. Shortly after her parents died in Ohio, she and her husband, Jacob Conkey, moved to Fayette County, Iowa. She died there on 13 Feb 1883 in her

seventy-fourth year. Her death record at the Fayette County courthouse says that she died of chronic something (I cannot read the word) and intestinal inflammation. Where it says duration of disease, the Doctor wrote "years and years". We found a notice in the local West Union paper for that week which said "Dead—Old Mrs. Conkey, mother of Mrs. A. B. Ecker, died Wednesday, after a long illness. Particulars next week." Unfortunately, something more important came up because there was nothing in the paper about Amy Rice the following week.

Harriet Conkey was the sixth child of Jacob Conkey and Amy Rice. She was born on 26 Jul 1839 in Farmer Township, Defiance County, Ohio. According to a family Bible record, she was christened Millicent Harriet Conkey after her grandmother, Millicent Bridge, but it appears that she went by the name of Harriet or Hattie all of her life. She was fourteen years old when her family moved to Fayette County, Iowa. During the years that she was married to A. B. Ecker, Harriet was active in community affairs at West Union. After they were divorced in 1886, she began to fade from the picture. I am sure that it was somewhat embarrassing to be divorced in those days. In 1901, Harriet's second son, Will Ecker, lost his wife and baby during childbirth and so he came to live with his mother in West Union for the remainder of her life. Harriet Conkey died on 27 Mar 1916, only one month after the death of A. B. Ecker. Her obituary that appeared in the West Union paper reads as follows:

"Mrs. Harriet M. Ecker, one of the earliest pioneers of West Union, died at 11:30 Monday forenoon, aged seventy-six. Mrs. Ecker had been an invalid for ten years and had rapidly declined in health for the past month."

"Mrs. Ecker was born in Ohio on July 26, 1839, being at death aged seventy-six years, eight months and seven days. She came to West Union in 1853, and has since resided here continuously. She was married in 1856 to A. B. Ecker who died recently in Chicago. They became the parents of two sons, whose homes have always been here or in this vicinity. E. C. Ecker, now of Fayette, and W. G. Ecker, of this place, who made his home with his mother for many years past."

"Mrs. Ecker is also survived by her brothers, George Conkey, living south of town, and Al Conkey of California."

"Mrs. Ecker played a prominent part in the life of West Union in the early days, but age and ill health had caused her to lead a very retired life for many years past. She held membership in the U. B. Church."

"The funeral was private and was held at the home at one o'clock yesterday afternoon, Rev T. P. Griffith making a few appropriate remarks, after which the remains were interred in the city cemetery."

We have located the grave of Harriet Conkey, although it is unmarked.

At this point, I would like to digress from our story briefly, to write a little about Harriet Conkey's brother, George Fordyce Conkey, who became quite a legend in Fayette County, Iowa. George was born in Farmer Township, Defiance County, Ohio, on 24 Sep 1841, just two years after Harriet was born. He was twelve years old when the family moved to Fayette County and homesteaded a farm about one mile south of West Union. George grew up on that farm. In 1854 he helped clear the land where the first Fayette County Fair was held and in 1855, he also helped clear the land for the courthouse square. After reaching adulthood, he gradually took over the farm duties from his father. He was twenty-seven years old when his father died in 1869 and he became owner of the farm. George continued to live on the farm with his mother, Amy Rice, as

housekeeper for some years until her health began to deteriorate. At that time they had a hired girl to do the housework named Frances Smith. George and Frances were married on 5 Dec 1881 when George was forty years old. His mother died about fourteen months later. George and Frances had five children. I don't know how many of my Ostrander cousins can remember "Old Hugh Conkey, the piano tuner" who lived around Fayette before our grandparents died. Hugh was a son of George and Frances. The local newspapers were quite impressed with the fact that, in spite of the advanced age at which George got married, he and Frances celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at their farm home on 5 Dec 1931. A little over one month later on 15 Jan 1932, George Fordyce Conkey died at the age of ninety. At this time, the newspapers made a big thing out of the fact that George had lived on the same farm for seventy-eight years. They said that this was longer than anyone else had ever lived in the same place in the entire history of Fayette County, and perhaps, even in the whole State of Iowa.

Ernestine Ecker's father was Ernest Conkey Ecker, the first child of A. B. Ecker and Harriet Conkey. He was born at West Union on 23 Oct 1859. He was only one and a half years old when his father went off to the Civil War. He grew up in West Union and attended the town schools. As a young man he learned the printer's trade and spent his entire working life in the newspaper business. Ernest was married in 1880 to Janet Hutchison of Arlington, IA. They were married at the home of her uncle in Mt. Sterling, Crawford County, Wisconsin. We do not know why they chose to be married there; but, we do know that one of Janet's sisters was also married there, so perhaps, the uncle had a nice home or maybe he was a clergyman. They always celebrated their anniversary on December 22nd and mentioned on numerous occasions that it was thirty degrees below zero the day they got married. However, when we went to the Crawford County courthouse to find the marriage record, it was dated 27 Jul 1880. I am totally baffled by this discrepancy unless there is an error in the official record.

There is a family tradition that Janet sang for a while with the Chicago Civic Opera and that Ernest played an instrument, probably the trumpet, with the Opera Orchestra. We have not been able to verify this in the records that we found, so we do not know whether this was before or after they were married. Perhaps they even met there, although they grew up in towns not more than twenty miles apart.

Ernest and Janet had five children all born at West Union. From stories that we have heard, it seems that Ernest liked to change jobs periodically. Apparently typesetters were in great demand in those days and he could get a job anywhere he wanted to go. At one time, when they were living at Fayette and the children were all in school there, he decided that he was going to make another move. Janet told him that she and the children were going to stay in Fayette until they finished school and, that if he wanted to go, he could go by himself. I guess he did not stay away too long before he came back home.

I was fortunate to get to know Ernest Ecker, my great grandfather, a little bit because he lived until I was past twenty years old. In the summer of 1948, my mother was taking care of Ernest and Janet at her home in Fayette. I was working in Minnesota at the time but came to visit my folks on a couple of holiday weekends during that summer. By that time, Ernest had very severe shaking of the hands. The family always blamed this on lead poisoning since he had been a typesetter all of his life. Today we would call it Parkinson's disease, which indeed, is what the doctor wrote on his death certificate. Because his hands shook so badly, he had difficulty eating and I recall that he was embarrassed to try in front of anyone. He was, therefore, very thin and frail. In order to get some nourishment, his doctor had suggested that he have a bottle of beer everyday. I believe that he really enjoyed the beer. During these summer days, Ernest would sit

outside in the shade of one of the big oak trees in the yard. When asked what he was doing, he would say that he was pondering, but he never said what he pondered about. When I told him one day that I was working in Minnesota, he said that he recalled back in the 1920's, he and his family made a trip by car up to Rochester, MN. He drove on U. S. Highway 52 from Calmar, IA to Rochester. He noted that when they crossed the stateline into Minnesota, they encountered a sign about every quarter of a mile saying that either a hill or a curve was coming up. This continued all the way to Rochester. He said to me, "the State of Minnesota could have saved a lot of money if they had put up one big sign at the border saying that the next fifty miles was all hills and curves". Having driven there recently, I can confirm that this stretch of highway is still all hills and curves.

In the fall of 1948, my folks moved to Jessup, IA and Ernest and Janet returned to their home in Arlington. They celebrated their sixty-eighth wedding anniversary on 22 Dec 1948. This was noted in the newspapers at the time. There were pictures with the article that reads as follows:

"ARLINGTON---Mr. and Mrs. Ern Ecker celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary in their Arlington home Friday. Two daughters, Ernestine, Mrs. C. R. Ostrander, Fayette, and Janet, Mrs. R. R. Mahler, Waverly, one granddaughter, Mrs. Jack Wright, Waverly, as well as Mr. Ostrander were able to be present to spend the day with them. Many friends also greeted them on that day."

"The Eckers were married at Mt Sterling, WS in the home of her uncle, on a day, the old people recall, when it was thirty-five degrees below."

"They have made their home for the most part in Arlington, Fayette and West Union. Mr. Ecker was engaged in the printing business in West Union, working at the Argo Gazette under Mr. Talmadge. He was one of the oldest men to learn to operate a linotype, being 50 years old when the machine came into use. For the past several years he has been content to tend his garden and house."

"They are the parents of five children, John Ecker, Los Angeles, California; Edna, Mrs. Clarence Brayton, Ault, Colorado; Robert Ecker, Waverly; and Ernestine and Janet, who are all in good health. Mrs. Ecker's father, John Hutchison, was one of the pioneer lawyers in this part of the country."

In the spring of 1949, Janet suffered an attack of pneumonia and the old folks were placed in a convalescent home in Olwein, IA to receive proper care. They celebrated their 69th anniversary in December 1949 at this home. Janet died there on 9 Apr 1950 and was buried at the Hartington Cemetery in Waverly, IA. Less than one month later, Ernest died on 3 May 1950 in his 90th year and was buried beside Janet.

The immigrant ancestor of the Hutchison family was Janet Hutchison's father, John Hutchison. He was born in Edinburgh, Scotland on 2 Jan 1837. His father was William Hutchison born on 7 Nov 1787, lived his entire life in Edinburgh and died in 1860 at the age of seventy-three. His mother was Janet Hamilton for whom we have no dates but she lived to be eighty-four years old. John was the next to last of thirteen children and did not have many advantages during his youth. Although he was a studious lad, he was only allowed to go to school until he was eleven years old. He received his business education working in a grocery store until he was nineteen years old; although, he spent many nights poring over books. One of John's older brothers, William Hutchison, had come to the United States in 1850 and settled in

Michigan. In 1856, John decided to follow his brother to the new world. He sailed from Edinburgh to New York and then went overland to Belleville, MI. His brother had a shop there making wagons and carriages. John learned the trade from his brother and spent the next nine years in Michigan. During that time, on 14 Dec 1859, John Hutchison was married to Martha Lickiss and three children were born in Michigan. In 1865, John, Martha and their family moved to Fayette County, Iowa. He opened a wagon shop at Taylorville, IA and carried on business there until 1875. Four more children were born there. At that time, he sold his business and moved to Arlington, IA that was called Brush Creek then. He, again, built a wagon shop but devoted very little time to that business. For the past six years, John Hutchison had been studying law on his own and in 1877 he was admitted to the bar in Iowa. From that time forward, he was engaged in the practice of law.

John Hutchison identified himself with the Republican Party until Hayes became President in 1876. At that time he began to support the Greenback movement. In 1878, he was elected on the Greenback ticket as Recorder of Deeds for Fayette County. This was the first Republican defeat in the County since the formation of the Party in 1856. John also served ten years as Justice of the Peace. He was instrumental in securing the town organization for Brush Creek and was elected the first mayor. He was also prominent in the organization of the Brush Creek Fair Association and was its first Secretary for a number of years. In 1890, he was nominated on the Democratic ticket for Fayette County Attorney. Although he lost the election, he made a strong race. John Hutchison was both a Mason and a Woodsman. On 14 Dec 1919, John and Martha celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary. The occasion was noted in the next issue of the Arlington newspaper as follows:

“Attorney and Mrs. John Hutchison celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary Sunday, Dec. 14, 1919. They were at home to their friends from two to five p.m. A large number of friends calling to pay their respects to these fortunate aged people.”

“Although Attorney and Mrs. Hutchison are well along in years and are the parents of a large family, undergoing the many hardships of early pioneer life in Fayette County, they are exceptionally well preserved for their years. Seeing them mingle with their friends on this occasion, it was very hard to realize they were a bride and groom of sixty years ago.”

“The bride is a member of the Thimble Club of this place, is generally associated and keeps up with ladies many years her junior. Attorney and Mrs. Hutchison live alone and entertain in their own home.”

“He is the only attorney in our city and is a very capable and busy gentleman, being well posted on national and local conditions. Mr. Hutchison is a leader in many movements for the welfare of his home town.”

“John Hutchison was born Jan. 2, 1837 and his wife, Martha M. Lickiss was born May 1, 1841 and were united in marriage Dec. 14, 1859 at Belleville, MI, coming to Iowa in March 1865 and to Arlington, then Brush Creek, in 1875, he built the building now owned by Amos Rittenhouse. He was elected Recorder of Fayette County in 1878.”

“They are the parents of four sons, three daughters and eleven grandchildren and twenty-four great grandchildren. Three grandsons, Lloyd Thompson. John Ecker and Kenneth Hutchison serving in the world war.”

John Hutchison died at Arlington on 29 Nov 1929 at the age of ninety-two. He is buried in the Arlington Cemetery.

Martha Lickiss was the daughter of John Lickiss. There is a family tradition that John's father was a member of the Scotch landed gentry known as "Border Scotch" as distinguished from the Highlanders. He was one of the younger sons of the family and could not inherit any family property. In addition, he did not get along with the oldest brother who did inherit the land; so he ran away from home to Yorkshire, England where he married a common girl. Because of this, he was totally disinherited from his father's estate. John Lickiss was born to this marriage in 1804 and grew up in Yorkshire. When he was a lad, he was apprenticed by his father to a baker. He did not care for the trade; so he also ran away from home to Leicestershire, England and apprenticed himself to a tanner. While living there he was married to Maria Webster, probably in about 1824. Three children were born in England. In about 1830, John, Maria and their three children came to America and settled in Belleville, MI. He continued to practice the trade of tanner. Eight more children were born in Belleville. John and Maria lived all of the rest of their lives there. We do not have a death date for either one of them. Martha Lickiss was the eleventh and last child of John and Maria. She was born at Belleville on 1 May 1841. Martha died at Arlington on 2 Jan 1929, just short of her eighty-eighth birthday.

Janet Hutchison was the second child of John Hutchison and Martha Lickiss. She was born at Ypsilanti, MI on 15 Sep 1862. She was three years old when her family moved to Iowa and thirteen when they arrived at Arlington. She finished her schooling there and was married when she was eighteen years old. There is a family story that says that Janet named her fourth son, John Abraham, after his grandfather but later became angry with A. B. and decided to change John's middle name to Alden. One would assume that her anger was caused by the divorce of A. B. and Harriet Conkey. However, the divorce was in 1886 and John was not born until 1890 so you would think that, if Janet were mad about the divorce, she would not have given John the middle name of Abraham in the first place. What I am wondering is if it might be possible that A. B. and Harriet kept their divorce and his subsequent marriage a secret, even from their own children, until it finally leaked out some years later. John Ecker's second wife, Margaret, told us that John never used either Abraham or Alden as a middle name but only used the initial A. all of his life. I do not remember much about Janet when she and Ernest were staying with my mother at Fayette in 1948. I do recall that she was nearly blind and also quite deaf, so she stayed in her room most of the time. She was in her eighty-seventh year when she died on 9 Apr 1950.

Ernestine Ecker was the second child of Ernest Ecker and Janet Hutchison. She was born in West Union on 16 Dec 1883. Ernestine always claimed that she did not have a middle name other than Ecker. She said that girls did not need a middle name because they would automatically get one when they were married. She did not give any of her three daughters a middle name. Imagine our surprise when, in recent years, we obtained a copy of her birth certificate from the Fayette County Court House and discovered that her parents had given her the middle name, Burdella. Apparently she hated the name so badly that she never told anyone about it. Ernestine attended the public schools in Fayette County, probably mostly in West Union and Fayette. After graduation from high school, she attended Upper Iowa University at Fayette for two years and received a teaching certificate. I never heard anyone ever say whether Ernestine actually taught school or not. I would guess that she might have finished college in the spring of 1903 and she could have taught school one year before she was married in the fall of 1904. There is no indication that she ever taught after she was married.

Although Clinton and Ernestine lived in South Dakota for about thirty-seven years, she was an Iowan through and through. I know that she was happy to move back to Iowa when Clint

retired and she always delighted in showing us the historic sites in northeast Iowa. In the last years of their lives together, Clint and Ernie had a little house in Fayette with a big back yard. I think that they were quite happy and comfortable there. One of Clint's cousins, Loren Ostrander and his wife, Mabel, lived next door and they spent a lot of time together playing cards and visiting. Clint had a vegetable garden in his back yard right up to the time of his death. He loved rhubarb pie and, of course, grew his own rhubarb in the garden. In fact, he always called it pie plant. After Clinton died, Ernestine continued to live in the little house for another four years.

It was a sad moment for Ernestine when her oldest daughter, Louise, died in Jan 1965. I think that she was closer to Louise than she was to her other girls. That was the only time that I ever saw her cry. After that she was quite alone in Iowa since her other three children were all out west, two in Arizona and one in California. The children talked her into moving to Arizona to be closer to them. They found her a place to live in a senior apartment and told her that she could make a lot of new friends there. She is reported to have replied, "why do I need any new friends? I haven't used my old ones yet." In spite of this, I am told that she was quite comfortable and happy in her last year and a half or so spent in Scottsdale. Ernestine Ecker died in a Phoenix hospital on 3 Sep 1966 in her eighty-second year. Her body was returned to Fayette and she was buried in the Grandview Cemetery next to Clinton Ostrander.